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THE TIMES

No. 65,188 SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

Air chief told: quit now or face an inquiry



BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT
AIR Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson, the senior RAF commander forced to resign over the £387,000 spent on renovating his official residence, was given an ultimatum to leave the service or face suspension and an inquiry that could have lasted 18 months.

Last night, as Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, was criticised by MPs for failing to make a statement in person to the Commons, the treatment of Sir Sandy was described by some defence sources as "equivalent to blackmail".

Sir Sandy, 53, who announced yesterday that he was to take early retirement, is understood to have been given the ultimatum in a meeting with Mr Rifkind. According to defence sources, he faced two choices: to resign on a pension or be suspended from his job as commander-in-chief of RAF Personnel and Training Command and face an inquiry into his involvement in the Haymes Garth affair. The sources said that Sir Sandy

and his wife, Mary, had already faced a year of pressure and innuendo and were both suffering from ill health. They said Sir Sandy could not face another 18 months of the same treatment, even if he were to be exonerated at the end of the inquiry.

He told Mr Rifkind he would resign. Yesterday, although there was no mention of the ultimatum in his resignation letter, Sir Sandy's statement hinted at the strain he and his wife have faced. He said: "I have served the RAF loyally for 35 years and it is

with great regret that I have indicated to the Chief of the Air Staff my intention to take early retirement. I have taken this step in the hope that it will relieve pressure on my Service and my family."

Mr Rifkind was in Scotland when Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, presented a written Commons answer detailing the findings of the independent report by Sheila Masters, of KPMG Peat Marwick into the Haymes Garth overspend. However, he issued a statement through the MoD, in which he said Sir Sandy had had a "distinguished career in which he has given his country much valuable service".

The failure by Mr Rifkind to make a personal statement to the Commons was branded a "disgrace" by one MP. John Wilkinson, Tory MP for Ruislip and Northwood and a former RAF officer who once trained with Sir Sandy, said: "The Secretary of State should fulfil his responsibility to Parliament about his role in the loss to the nation of one of the RAF's most respected and capable commanders. He has



a brilliant record of distinguished service and this is the kind of loss that the Service and the country cannot afford. I believe that he has been made a scapegoat."

Mr Wilkinson claimed Sir Sandy had been the victim of "trial by innuendo and leaks to the press". Last night the MoD denied that claim and said that he had resigned voluntarily.

Sir Sandy will continue in Continued on page 2, col 6

Judge attacks mandatory sentences

Two soldiers get life for Ulster killing

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE in Belfast called for the abolition of the mandatory life sentence for murder yesterday as he jailed two Scots Guardsmen for killing a teenager in the city.

The two men had been part of a four-man patrol and the victim, Peter McBride, 18, had run away when challenged by another of the soldiers in the group in September 1992.

Lord Justice Kelly made his comments as he jailed Mark Wright, 21, from Arbroath, and James Fisher, 28, from Ayrshire. He said that the mandatory sentence was artificial and he called on Parliament to consider a new crime of culpable homicide to cover murder and manslaughter.

Relatives of the victim, who died in the republican New Lodge area of Belfast, applauded as Lord Justice Kelly sentenced the two soldiers. Some stood in the public gallery and shouted abuse as the men were led from the dock and some had to be escorted from the building after clashes with police outside the court.

The sentencing followed the recent furore over the unsuccessful appeal by Private Lee Clegg, of the Parachute Regiment, who is also serving life for murder.

The Scots Guardsmen claimed that McBride was carrying a plastic bag that contained a coffee jar bomb. He was stopped for questioning by a Lance Sergeant.

Wright and Fisher said at their trial that they chased McBride after he ran away from the sergeant. Fisher said he felt threatened because he thought McBride was trying to set a trap by running to a car. Wright said he opened



Peter McBride: shot as he ran from patrol

fire after he heard a shot, which he thought had been fired by the teenager.

Mr Justice Kelly said, however, that the two soldiers had concocted the story of the threat posed by the teenager, and added that the soldiers had "acted in concert" to kill or seriously injure McBride. The judge said McBride was not a suspected terrorist and the patrol had not been alerted to a potential paramilitary attack at the time.

Lord Justice Kelly said: "The whole image of the case is that of a cheeky young man after an impudent confrontation with a member of the patrol running away as hard as he could. That picture did not suggest a young man wandering round with a bomb in a bag nor a plan to lead a patrol into a trap. The deceased man was running away from his pursuers, intent on shaking them off."

The judge appeared to contrast the shooting with the case of Clegg, who was convicted of murdering a passenger in a joyrider's car in West Belfast in 1990. Lord Justice Kelly said: "It was not a panic situation that required split-second action. The circumstances contrasted with a soldier being confronted in the dark of night by a moving vehicle. That is a different situation."

Lord Justice Kelly said he had delayed his judgment while he awaited the outcome

of Clegg's appeal to the House of Lords to have his conviction reduced to manslaughter. He told the court yesterday: "Their lordships argued that question in the negative. Even if they had argued in the affirmative, I doubt if a verdict of manslaughter would have fitted my findings in this case."

The judge said, however, that Parliament might like to examine the law of homicide. He said: "Parliament in a broader examination of the law of homicide, as it may affect all persons, might consider the substitution of a single crime of culpable homicide for the present categories of manslaughter and murder, and the abolition of the mandatory life sentence with all its artificiality."

The parents of Peter McBride last night welcomed the sentences. Jean McBride, the victim's mother, said: "I hope this is not going to be a Clegg affair now that the judgment is over. They murdered my child. Their family is crying, but they can see their sons next week. I go to a graveyard, and I don't see mine."

The judge's comments about the law of homicide echo the concerns of a considerable pressure group. Lawyers believe the category could apply to those in uniform who, while carrying out their duty, kill neither in self-defence nor in a manner that is not premeditated.

Some campaigners have argued that such a charge could also relate to killing, where, in the course of duty, excessive force has been used to make an arrest or in self-defence. At present both situations lead to a murder charge and, on conviction, a mandatory life sentence. The new category would give judges the discretion to set a suitable sentence, as they do in cases of manslaughter, where in the case of murder it is the Home Secretary who determines the time spent in jail.



Owen Oyston leaves Altrincham police station yesterday. He said the night he spent in police custody was "brilliant, better than the Hilton"

OWEN OYSTON, the millionaire publisher and owner of Blackpool Football club, was charged with eight sex offences yesterday, including four counts of rape, and given conditional bail (Kate Alderson writes).

Mr Oyston, 60, appeared at a hearing at Trafford magistrates in Manchester, almost 36 hours after he was arrested on Thursday morning. Mr

Owen Oyston on rape charges

Oyston, who is married with five children, is charged with four rapes, three indecent assaults and conspiring to procure girls under the age of 21 to have sexual intercourse.

The court heard that the four rapes are alleged to have taken place between April 1988 and December 1992. Two of

the incidents are said to have taken place at Cloughton Hall, Mr Oyston's home, and another in London. No location was given for the fourth count. The three indecent assaults are alleged to have taken place between September 1989 and December 1991. Mr Oyston is also charged

with conspiring with Charles Martin, the former owner of a model agency in Manchester, to procure girls under the age of 21 to have sexual intercourse in any part of the world with a third party.

John Lord, prosecuting, applied for a remand on conditional bail which was

agreed to by Anthony Scriven, QC, defending. After the hearing Mr Oyston was taken to Altrincham police station and emerged last night to declare his innocence. He told reporters that the night he had spent in police custody was "brilliant".

"It was better than the Hilton," he said. "I just don't want to have to repeat it."

Major strives in vain to quell Cabinet feuding

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR was last night fighting an increasingly forlorn battle to hold his Government together after Cabinet divisions over a single currency erupted into open warfare.

The Prime Minister said that Kenneth Clarke's speech on Thursday night, in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer extolled the potential benefits of economic and monetary union, was in line with his thinking. He denied that ministers were divided over the issue.

Mr Major's efforts to keep up a united front were, however, shaken by public criticism of Mr Clarke by Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary. Mr Portillo, the Cabinet's most prominent Euro-sceptic, said it did not help for ministers to go beyond the "settled policy" set out by the Prime Minister: that Britain would stand aside from any single currency agreed by the European Union before the next election.

Other right-wing ministers suggested it would be better

for the Government if Mr Clarke did not look so far ahead.

In another sign of the air of crisis enveloping the Conservative high command, Lord Tebbit, the former party chairman, warned Mr Major that ministers were after his job. In remarks apparently referring to Mr Clarke and Michael He

"The debate in the Tory Party is not simply about a single currency, it is about Britain and a vision of its future"

— Tony Blair, page 16

setline, the President of the Board of Trade and the Cabinet's other European standard-bearer, Lord Tebbit said: "I just have to say to John Major, 'Just watch it'. There are people in the Cabinet who ... would still like the Prime Minister's job."

Lord Tebbit, a hardline Euro-sceptic, compared alleged differences between the Prime Minister and his Chan

cellor over a single currency with the corrosive feud between Margaret Thatcher and Nigel Lawson, her Chancellor, over the Exchange-Rate Mechanism that eventually precipitated her downfall.

Mr Clarke dismissed his intervention as mischief-making, saying that he and the Prime Minister had worked together on the speech. "Norman has a habit of trying to make people's blood run cold."

The Chancellor insisted in interviews yesterday that he was simply trying to engineer a "serious and intelligent" debate about monetary union and keep options open while working with fellow Europeans on the practicalities.

As the Prime Minister embarked on a tour of Oxfordshire, the most alarming development was the crumbling of Cabinet discipline over the issue, which threatens to tear the Tories apart before the election. Mr Portillo, in an interview which he reportedly

Continued on page 2, col 4

Dresden protest against British

An anti-British demonstration will be staged by neo-Nazis in Dresden today to mark the 50th anniversary of the decision to raze the German city. Despite a comprehensive ban on protests by the city authorities, the so-called Federation for a United Germany used computer mailboxes to mobilise sympathisers. At the official ceremonies on Monday, the principal British representative will be the Duke of Kent. Page 11

£276m victory for Maxwell pensioners

BY ROBERT MILLER

PENSIONERS faced with ruin after Robert Maxwell plundered their pension funds learnt last night that a £276 million deal had been agreed to restore their financial security. Mirror Group Newspapers said the deal when approved by the courts could release more than £100 million MGN set aside to cover lost pension funds. More than three years after

the tycoon's body was found floating in the Atlantic, the trustees of his company pension funds announced that a group of City institutions had agreed to settle claims. The deal ended years of mental turmoil for 32,000 people who had worked for Maxwell companies and had learnt after his death that he had stolen about £440 million in pensions cash.

Ken Trench, chairman of the Maxwell Pensioners' Ac

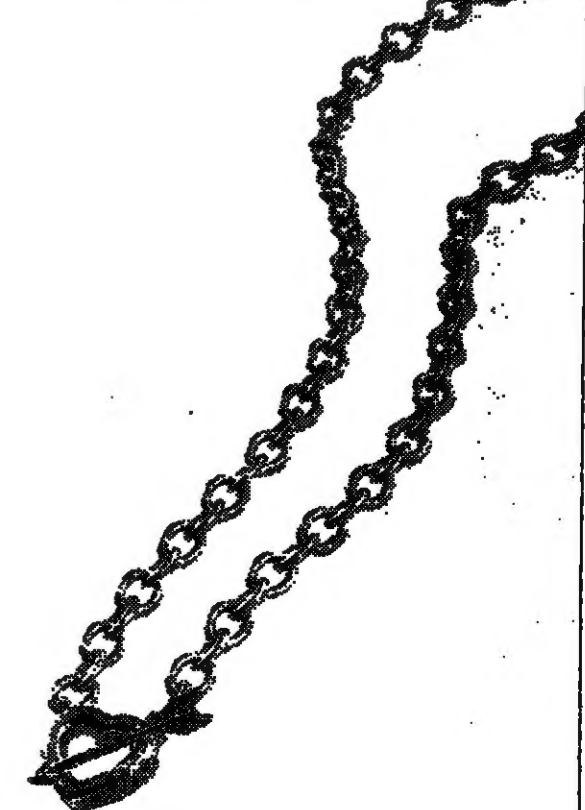
tion Group, representing 20,000 Maxwell pensioners, said: "Obviously this is tremendous news. These people can get on with living their lives. This [affair] has spoilt what should be a secure, pleasant retirement for many and made it into a nightmare. But that nightmare is over."

He had spoken to a number of pensioners who were in "Cloud-cuckoo-land" after hearing they were to receive all their pension, he said. "It is

a bit like winning the lottery." The deal further secures the future for Maxwell pensioners, but still falls short of making up the £400 million worth of funds stolen from the pension schemes.

The trustees of the four schemes involved in yesterday's settlement were quick to point out that they would still be pursuing other parties who had business dealing with Maxwell companies and pension funds.

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Jailed guardsmen 'thought shot teenager had coffee jar bomb'

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MARK WRIGHT, James Fisher and two other Scots Guardsmen had embarked on a routine Army patrol through the republican New Lodge estate in north Belfast on the morning of September 4, 1992. A month earlier the IRA had shot dead a soldier in the area, and the guardsmen would have been conscious of the danger.

Yesterday Wright, 21, from Arbroath, and Fisher, 28, from Ayrshire, were convicted at Belfast Crown Court of murdering Peter McBride, 18, who was shot as he ran away from their patrol. At 10.25am on the day of the shooting a lance sergeant in the patrol stopped Mr McBride for questioning. He had a record of petty crime but no convictions for paramilitary offences.

Wright claimed at his trial last year that the patrol took up defensive positions on a street corner as his sergeant stopped Mr McBride. The guardsman said that the teenager seemed to be startled and appeared to be holding something under the jacket, which he thought was a coffee jar bomb.

Wright said: "He had a white plastic bag rolled up in a cylinder in his hand. My initial thought was it was a Mark 15 coffee jar bomb because of the way he was holding it and the way we had been consistently briefed on the threat of a Mark 15." The guardsman said that after Mr McBride was questioned he ripped the sergeant's car piece from his head and jumped over a fence into a garden. As Mr McBride ran down the street the sergeant shouted "grab him", and Wright and Fisher gave chase.

Wright said he heard his colleague shout two or three times: "Army, stop or I will fire." Wright then claimed that he cocked his weapon. "I ran down the street with my head down, then I heard a round being fired. I dropped to one knee and fired two aimed shots at the youth. It looked to me as if he had turned and fired because of the side-on view I had of him." However, the guardsman admitted that he had not seen a gun or anything resembling one.

After opening fire, Wright claimed that he heard another two shots almost simultaneously, and Mr McBride appeared to crumple to the ground. At this point he saw Fisher standing with his rifle at his shoulder. He later saw the teenager sitting in an alleyway. "Then the youth fell over on to his back and I thought we had hit him," Wright told the court.

Fisher told the court that he pursued the teenager and opened fire because he believed Mr McBride was armed with a bomb and because he feared he was being led into a trap. He said he fired a further two shots at Mr McBride because he still consid-

ered him a threat. The guardsman said he had no intention of killing.

However, Mr Justice Kelly yesterday rejected the key elements of the guardsmen's cases as untrue. He told Wright that he had deliberately lied in a number of areas to give himself a stronger case. The judge asked whether Fisher would have pursued Mr McBride if he believed he was under threat.

Britain must compete in 'savage world'

Economist defends wealth gap as price of survival

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

EFFORTS to reverse Britain's widening gap between rich and poor could bring economic disaster, a leading economist warned yesterday.

Patrick Minford, Professor of Economics at Liverpool University and one of the group of economists that advises the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said the Joseph Rowntree Foundation inquiry into income and wealth had failed to take account of the "savage world" in which Britain had to compete.

The year-long inquiry, whose members included Howard Davies, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said the gap between rich and poor was wider than at any time since the Second World War and that millions of people were being denied a stake in the country's future. The report said that between 1979 and 1992, the real incomes of the richest 10 per cent rose by

55 per cent while the incomes of the poorest 10 per cent stayed the same. It said urgent measures had to be taken to correct the imbalance which would otherwise threaten social cohesion and the country's economic prospects.

Professor Minford said: "The facts are not in dispute. However, over the past 20 years in the United States the bottom 10 per cent of the population have had a cut in their real living standards of 20 per cent. What is remarkable is that we have managed to avoid that."

"The conclusions of the Rowntree inquiry are extraordinary. They want to go back to a redistributive welfare system. There is a very sharp trade-off between a free market system where wages find their own level and you get wage inequality, and a redistributive system accompanied by huge unemployment."

"What we need, and have

successfully provided, is a safety net welfare system, not a redistributive system, to counter absolute poverty. We have benefits linked to prices which give people some kind of guarantee."

"That is already quite an ambitious floor, given the fall in the real incomes of the poorest in the United States. The inquiry has not properly taken account of the savage world we're in."

Howard Davies, who served on the inquiry in a personal capacity, said in a newspaper article yesterday that there were dangers for the economy and for business in a continued widening of income distribution. "Such a trend cannot fail to present a threat to social cohesion. A growing number of people have become detached from the market economy, unable to make a contribution to wealth creation."

"That represents a significant waste of resources and increases other social costs in the health service and the criminal justice system as well as the social security budget. Growing income inequality may therefore be a competitive handicap."

Digby Anderson, director of the Social Affairs Unit, said that the rich and poor were better described as the reasonably affluent and the extremely affluent. David Green, director of health and welfare at the Institute of Economic Affairs, said: "It doesn't matter about the gap between rich and poor so long as the bottom of the income range is not too low. I don't think it is. The main message of the report is: it pays to work."

Leading article, page 17



Minford: says report drew wrong conclusion



John Major at a youth project in Oxford yesterday

Major fails to quell Cabinet feuding

Continued from page 1

volunteered to the BBC, suggested that it was Mr Clarke, rather than the Euro-sceptics, who were out of step with the Prime Minister, who many believe has become more wary of Brussels.

The Employment Secretary, who said last year that scrapping the pound "would mean giving up the government of the UK", also challenged Mr Clarke's suggestion that monetary union was primarily an economic judgment. "I would reiterate what the Prime Minister said on Tuesday," he said. "It is a constitutional issue."

The spectacle of the leaders of the rival Tory camps openly confronting each other provoked venomous interventions by their backbench supporters.

As the nine whipless Tories added their names to a broadly Euro-sceptic Commons motion on a single currency, taking the total to 107, Teresa Gorman, one of their number, said that Mr Clarke was "telling porkies when he said that a single currency did not mean a federal Europe". The Chancellor should fall into line and "button his lip" if he

wanted to remain part of the Cabinet, she said.

The pro-European wing of the party regarded Mr Clarke's speech as a source of jubilation, however, with many Tories saying they were delighted that the Chancellor was not afraid to raise the European standard. Peter Temple-Morris, a leading figure on the centre-left and a close supporter of Mr Heseltine, launched an attack on Mr Portillo. "I am amazed that a junior Cabinet minister should deliberately raise this issue at a time when the Cabinet and the party have to stick together."

As the argument raged yesterday, it was clear that the Right and Left were seeking to make the Prime Minister their prisoner.

Downing Street officials said that while the Chancellor was focusing on the economic arguments, the Prime Minister had to look at the broader picture.

Denying a rift with his Chancellor, Mr Major said: "I think you should examine what the Chancellor said last night. He made it clear we are a long way away from the right economics for a single currency."

Air chief told to quit or be suspended

Continued from page 1

his present post until the end of April and will leave the RAF in July. He will receive no special financial compensation or redundancy. According to official figures, he will leave on a pension of about £44,000 a year and a one-off lump sum of three times that amount (£132,000) as an advance on his pension rights.

After making available a summary of the Masters report to MPs and publishing details of an internal audit of other official Service residences, Mr Soames announced that Haymes Garth was to be put for sale.

Haymes Garth, the 12-room house in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, which has been at the centre of an unprecedented controversy after £387,000 was spent on refurbishment, will be replaced by more "suitable" alternative accommodation.

Sir Sandy was neither at his headquarters at RAF Tunworth in Gloucestershire nor at his official home in Cheltenham. Defence sources said he was staying with friends over the weekend and would be back at work on Monday.

Mr Soames said the Masters report had called into question the judgment of a number of individuals which might require action by the appropriate authorities.

Ministry of Defence sources said no decision had been taken but the others involved, a number of senior RAF officers and civil servants, may face disciplinary action.

However, Mr Soames said: "There are no findings of illegality or culpable impropriety, but failures of control imply individual failures in management and responsibility."

The Masters report which was not given to the MPs in full because the MoD said it was a confidential inquiry, said the controls over spending at Haymes Garth were "poor" and numerous variations were agreed to the original plan, "with the result that there was a significant overspend."

Mr Soames said that the audit of the other residences showed that the management of a majority of them was satisfactory but there were significant failures of control in a minority of cases, mostly in RAF commands.

The internal audit highlighted weaknesses in control of spending at the official home of the commander-in-chief RAF Strike Command in High Wycombe. Sir Sandy's former official house at Rhindahlen in Germany when he was commander-in-chief RAF Germany 1991-1993, was also examined. The internal audit showed that a total of £302,000 was spent on the property between 1991 and 1993.

Errors of judgment, page 6
Simon Jenkins, page 16

Teachers threaten to strike on budget cuts

Schools could face a national teachers' strike if budget cuts lead to widespread redundancies and increased class sizes, Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said yesterday. He said children could be sent home on a rota basis where classes were considered too large to teach or the union might opt for local strikes.

The six teaching unions will meet next week to discuss a concerted campaign but none is likely to follow the NASUWT's hard line before the Easter round of conferences. Opposition to cuts in schools is likely to increase tomorrow when governors, parents and teachers from all over the country gather for a protest meeting.

Mackay rejects merger

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, told magistrates last night that he would not force mergers between court areas as part of the current reform of the magistrates' courts service. But he warned that a "substantial reduction" in the present numbers would be needed. He told the Worcestershire Magistrates' Association that he remained "fundamentally committed" to the local management of courts.

Meningitis outbreak

A four-year-old girl has died and two other children are in hospital after an outbreak of meningococcal meningitis in Cleveland. The girl died on Thursday after being admitted to South Cleveland hospital, Middlesbrough, earlier this week. The two other children, aged seven and eight months, are said to be improving at the same hospital. Doctors believe that two of the cases are linked.

Former judge jailed

A former judge who fraudulently obtained thousands of pounds in fees was jailed for six months yesterday. Over 16 months, Ernest Aragon, 68, of New Malden, Surrey, made bogus claims of more than £10,500 for 600 unprocessed immigration appeal cases. The former Kenyan High Court judge had denied four counts of obtaining property by deception and claimed he intended to complete the work.

Pools payouts at bookies

Pools winners could soon be able to collect prize money from betting shops, the Government announced yesterday. Nicholas Baker, a junior Home Office minister, told the Commons: "We have considered the representations from the pools promoters and the bookmakers to allow betting shops to pay out pools winnings. This would be in line with the bookmakers' normal business activity."

Pleasence cremated

Alan Bates, left, and Harold Pinter were among celebrities and friends at a service at Putney Vale Crematorium, southwest London, yesterday for Donald Pleasence, who died last week, aged 75, at his home near Nice. Flowers included a bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums in the shape of a champagne glass, with a card that read: "Daddy. See you in the bar!"

Travel chief jailed

The head of a travel company that collapsed leaving 40,000 holidaymakers stranded and owing £12 million has been jailed for nine months for fraud. Valerie Tjolle, 50, of Frome, Somerset, chairman of Land Travel, of Bath, which specialised in cut-price coach tours, admitted two charges of fraudulent trading during the summer of 1992. The Trade Department is continuing an inquiry into the collapse.

Faxed to freedom

A prisoner has escaped from Norfolk jail after an accomplice faxed forged bail documents to his governors. Warders thought the court bail papers were genuine and let David Aves, 36, of Elmwell, Suffolk, walk free. Details of his escape emerged yesterday, two days after police officers saw him driving near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

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Police check for escaped psychiatric patients after grandmother is attacked on country lane walk

Farmer's wife has her throat cut in motiveless murder

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FARMER'S wife was the victim of a motiveless killer who cut her throat as she walked in a quiet country lane less than 400 yards from where her husband and son were working in the fields, police said yesterday.

Margaret Wilson, 66, was attacked as she walked towards her home on the York-

shire Wolds. Her husband Edwin and son Alan were working in nearby fields unaware of the attack by a man who stopped in a car, grabbed Mrs Wilson, slashed her throat and drove off.

Police are checking psychiatric hospitals for reports of escaped patients. They also launched an extensive com-

puter search for the killer's white Montego estate car.

The attack happened on a lane linking the agricultural hamlets of Burton Fleming and Rudston in north Humberside on Thursday. David Southwell, a parish councillor said: "It's terrible. The reaction has been to lock all doors and windows. Everyone is upset."

Rosalea Wells, clerk to Burton Fleming parish council and Mrs Wilson's neighbour, said: "We are so shocked. Margaret was such a nice person. The whole village is in shock. It is normally such a quiet little place. No one had heard of Burton Fleming until this tragedy happened."

The nearest police station is ten miles away. The last time there was any crime here in living memory was when the local post office was raided last autumn.

"I walk a lot myself. I went for a walk yesterday. It was purely fate I took a different road to Margaret otherwise it could have been me."

Detective Superintendent Tony Corrigan, who is leading the investigation, said: "It was a particularly savage and motiveless murder of a quiet, unassuming, pleasant old



Police searching the murder scene. The killer, who was driving a white Montego, pulled up to his victim, slashed her throat and drove off



Margaret Wilson: died yards from husband and son

BURTON FLEMING

lady who enjoyed walking in the countryside. A motive cannot be understood. It is quite possible this person could strike again." Police are not sure if the killer was alone in the car.

Mr Corrigan said that Mrs Wilson had been dropped off by her daughter Heather to walk the two miles to her home in Burton Fleming. As she walked alone she passed two farm workers in a field.

Mr Corrigan said: "They saw a vehicle drive past her, stop, and a man get out and jog towards her. They saw a struggle taking place. She and the man fell to the ground out of sight. Then they saw the man get up, jog off and drive away towards Rudston."

The men jumped on a tractor and drove to the road

where they found Mrs Wilson collapsed. A passing doctor and nurse confirmed that she was already dead. The two men then alerted her husband and son.

Her attacker is described as 6ft, white, with dark hair and an athletic build.

Heather Wilson, 39, said last night: "I didn't like her going out for walks on her own. Although this was her own territory — the area where she had lived and we as children were brought up — I

had warned her not long ago that she could be attacked." She said that her mother replied: "What would anybody want with an old lady like me?"

Miss Wilson said that her mother had walked the country road hundreds of times and was close to a farm where she had lived. She said that her mother had lived for her family: "She asked for nothing in return. I think the crazy person who did this will do it again. My mother got killed

because she just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Mrs Wilson was a popular figure in Burton Fleming. She and her husband had recently handed control of their farm to their son Alan, but still helped out.

Mrs Wilson assisted at the Darby and Joan Club and was active in the Methodist church. She and her twin sister, Elsie, were married to identical twins. She had four children, seven grandchildren

and one great-grandchild. Kathleen Raven, 50, the mother-in-law of Alan Wilson, heard of her death from her grand-daughter, Tracy, 22. "I thought she was acting daft then she told me her nan had been murdered and I just couldn't believe it."

Mrs Raven said she last saw Mrs Wilson, a close neighbour, that morning when she delivered her paper. "She was laughing and joking and stayed for about 15 minutes. She was a wonderful woman who had no enemies. We were great friends and she would do anything for me."

"I don't know what kind of person could have done this to her. It can't be someone from around here because everyone knew what a wonderful woman she was."

Hit man boasted about shooting victim in street

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DONALD URQUHART, the millionaire businessman shot on a London street by a contract killer, was murdered for £20,000 on the orders of a business associate, police believe.

They suspect that Mr Urquhart was on the trail of a well-connected man whom he suspected had defrauded him in a deal worth millions of pounds. Yesterday, as the last of the gang involved in his murder was jailed at the Old Bailey, details were released of an unprecedented investigation into an underworld hit team. Until now a court order has prevented publication.

Last autumn Graeme West, a bankrupt roofer and "enforcer", was jailed for life for the shooting. Yesterday Geoffrey Heath, 36, from Malbury, South Yorkshire, who worked for West, admitted conspiracy to murder. After West, 33, from Thornton Heath, south London, was sentenced the judge banned any press reports of the case until Heath was dealt with.

Mr Urquhart was shot three times by a motorcyclist as he walked to dinner from his flat in Marylebone, west London, with Pat Iamspithone, his Thai girlfriend, in January 1993. Hours later his murderer could still not contain his exhilaration. Celebrating in a bar, West gleefully kept pinching a friend's arm and shouting: "I done it. I done it." He had finally climbed the ladder of south London's underworld from club bouncer, debt collecting and "clumping" —



West: exhilarated



Heath: reluctant

punishing people who failed to pay their bills — to contract killing.

West could not stop boasting about his deed. As officers began investigations they were given a breakthrough. The man West had paid to buy the motorcycle for him was a police informer. When he discovered what the motorcycle had been used for he talked to his police handler. Police

began surveillance operations and tried to get an undercover officer into the group around West. He became cagey but a second breakthrough came when police arrested Andrew Karn, a former soldier and friend of West's. Under pressure he began talking and agreed to give evidence against West.

Police suspect that at least three men who have never been brought to court were involved in the killing, including a wealthy business associate of Mr Urquhart's who ordered the murder. A middle man in north London took up the contract and passed it on to a contact in south London. Each man may have taken a commission for helping to set up the attack.

Detectives believe that if West had not been caught he could have carried out another killing. They suspect there were plans for West to kill Mr Urquhart's brother if he took over the dead man's business.

Mr Urquhart was an unconventional businessman from gypsy stock who often worked from the back of his stretch limousine. He started work as a hod carrier, then was a used-car dealer before launching into property deals which included Elstree Golf Club.

Yesterday, after Heath's conviction, Karn admitted firearms offences, wounding, armed robbery and assault. Judge Deacon sentenced him to two years' imprisonment but Karn was immediately released because of the time he has been held. The judge said that if he had not had the courage to give evidence West would not have been convicted.

During West's trial the court was told that West cut up the revolver he used and burnt his clothing on Karn's patio. Police say Karn will be helped to create a new life under witness protection schemes.

Yesterday Ronald Thwaites, QC, for the defence, said Heath had been a "reluctant accomplice" and had wanted to leave the plot well before the murder. He tried to repay the £20,000 but had spent part of it and the rest was frozen as he had been made bankrupt.



Urquhart with Iamspithone, who saw the shooting

Damages for prison haircut

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN on remand who claimed that a prison haircut made him look like a convict and would jeopardise his reputation in court has successfully sued the jail.

Mark Barnsley was awarded damages by a judge who agreed that he had been given a shaven head against his wishes at the privately run jail in Doncaster. Mr Barnsley took action through the county court after a request for a trim to his hair and beard left him shorn and

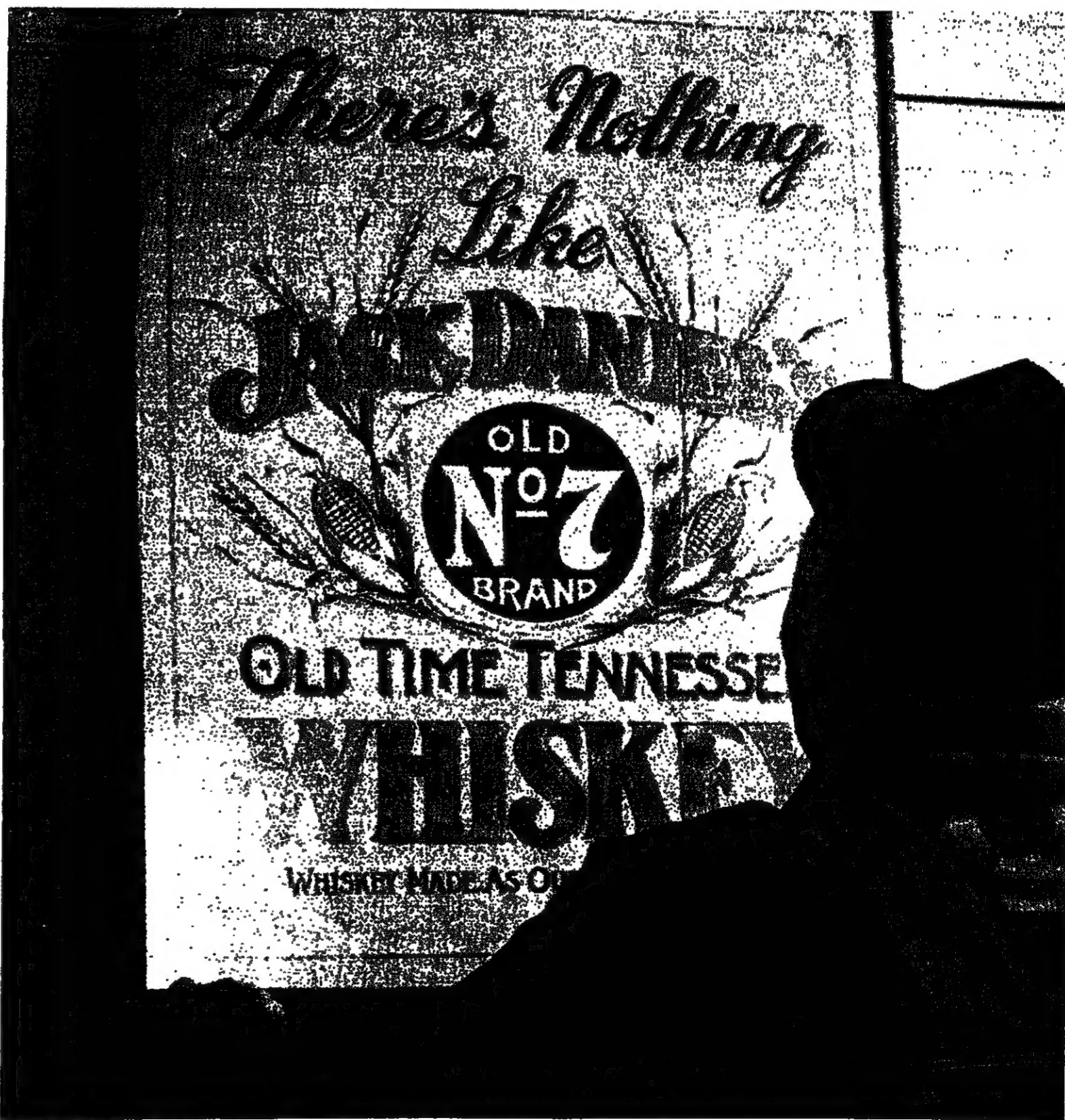
earned him the nickname "Baldman of Doncatraz". He said that the haircut made him look like a criminal. "It would have been very detrimental to my image. My hair took several months to grow back. Not only was I subjected to taunts from inmates but it was upsetting for my children when they saw me."

Judge Stocken held the hearing at the £90 million prison which opened last year. It stands on the site of an old power station between

the river Don and a canal and has been dubbed "Doncatraz" by locals.

The judge ruled against Premier Prison Services, the American-owned company which runs the prison, and set damages at £100. Mr Barnsley had sought £1,000. She ordered that the company pay his costs.

Mr Barnsley, 33, of Netherthorpe, Sheffield, is on remand charged with wounding students at a pub in Sheffield last July.



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Thirty arrested as veal protesters clash with police

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THIRTY people were arrested yesterday when more than 1,500 demonstrators blocked the road to Brightlingsea docks as the Essex port received its first consignment of veal calves during the four-week animal rights dispute.

The 350 police took two hours to force a half-mile passage through the crowd for six lorries carrying 120 calves and 2,400 sheep for export. The animals were loaded on to the Scandinavian transporter *MV Caroline* but were expected to remain on board for 48 hours after the authorities in Belgium, where the ship was due to sail, refused to accept them over the weekend.

Several people were treated for crush injuries as police cleared the narrow street to the docks. One woman was taken to hospital after an asthma attack and a man was treated for a head injury. An

RSPCA inspector examined the animals, many of which appeared distressed after their journey, which began earlier this week in Ireland. Women and children wept during the controversial operation which is costing police up to £40,000 a day.

Protesters staged a sit-in up to 100 yards deep and blocked the road with half a dozen lorries. After the consignment reached the docks an attempt was made to charge the heavy police lines at the gates but this was quickly repulsed.

Police, who had mud thrown at them when the consignment arrived in the town centre, were criticised for "heavy-handed" tactics. Their approach was to step over two ranks of sitting demonstrators at a time, lifting or pushing them back to officers waiting behind in a second

rank. Some people were crushed beside parked cars as police made their tortuous progress through the crowd. After allowing demonstrators a ten-minute sit-down protest, police forced them back to allow the lorries, supported by a dozen vehicles with wind-shield screens, to inch forward.

The protesters made a human chain across the entrance to the docks, linking themselves with chains to a telegraph pole at one end and a road sign at the other. Police broke the chains with bolt-cutters. Cars blocking the road were bumped aside or towed away.

Maria Wilby, spokeswoman for BALE, the local protest group, said: "The police have gone right back to heavy-handed tactics. They just ploughed through regardless, and that was after they



More than 1,500 people sat down to block the road to Brightlingsea. Police took two hours to clear the way

stopped people entering Brightlingsea to join the demonstration. Now they have got calves through for the first time, they will get them through every time."

Before the operation, police chiefs received a fax from colleagues in Nieuwpoort, near Ostend, informing them

that the mayor of the Belgian port, where sympathy is growing for the Brightlingsea animal rights movement, would not allow the animals to be docked until Monday. Police informed Roger Mills, the Suffolk haulier organising the exports, but he insisted on going ahead. He was not

available for comment. Ric Morgan, Mayor of Brightlingsea, protested against live animal exports through the town as reckless and damaging to local commerce.

In Shoreham, West Sussex, about 300 demonstrators clashed with police yesterday in a failed attempt to stop six

lorries carrying calves and sheep from entering the port. The animals later left on a boat bound for Dieppe.

The port authority was forced to resume livestock shipments a week ago after a High Court ruling.

Credo, page 9

NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

Win a Valentine's Day dinner for two in Paris and, in *Times Sport*, win a trip for two to the Irish Grand National, on Monday

How to take a friend to a concert for 20p, on Tuesday



The power of style and how to use it, in *Fashion* on Wednesday

The politically correct *Jungle Book*, and other new films, on Thursday

Bernard Levin, Valerie Grove and Caitlin Moran, on Friday

Discount scheme launched by Tesco

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

TESCO yesterday announced the launch of a discount card scheme in an attempt to increase its share of sales among the supermarket giants.

The Tesco Clubcard goes nationwide on Monday after a successful trial at 14 stores over the past year. Clubcard customers will be able to accumulate points based on the amount they spend, which are then converted into money-off vouchers. Customers will also benefit from special promotions and invitations to in-store events such as food tastings.

The move was attacked yesterday by Sainsbury, Tesco's main rival, which dismissed it as ineffective and costly. A spokesman for the company claimed that the discounts offered by the card were inadequate and would fail to generate substantial sales increases. He estimated that the scheme would cost £55 million in its first year.

Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco chairman, said that the launch costs would be £5 million but the scheme was expected to break even this year and to be profitable thereafter.

Industry analysts predict that other supermarket chains will be forced to follow Tesco's lead. Sainsbury and Safeway are testing loyalty cards but said they had no plans to extend the schemes nationally.

Some observers believe that the real value of the Tesco clubcard will be in compiling detailed information on its customers' spending habits. One analyst said: "They will know everything — what their customers buy, how often they visit the store and how much they spend. In a market like this, that information is worth its weight in gold."

Fast food chain gets kicks over Route 66

By JON ASHWORTH

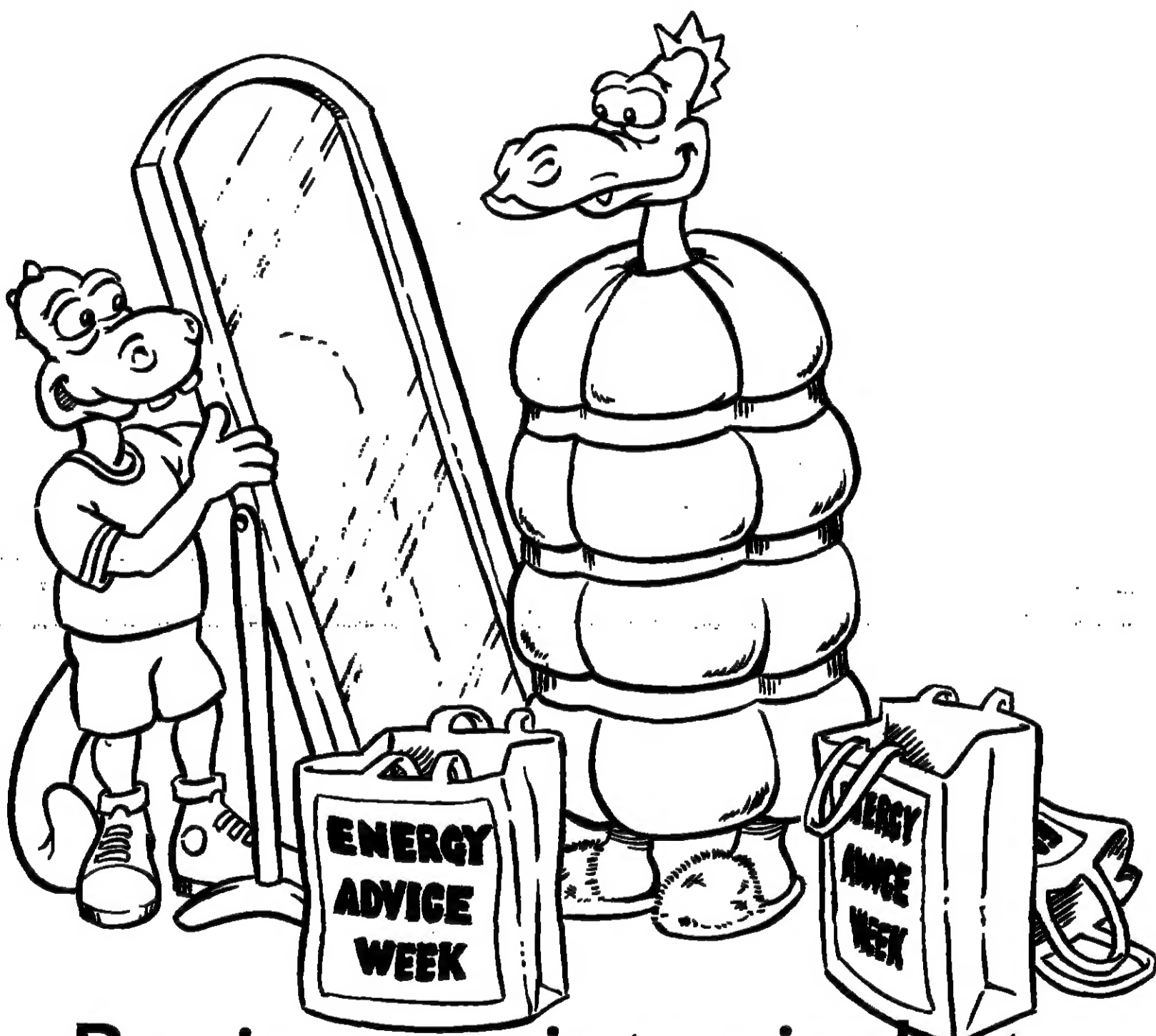
MCDONALD'S Route 66 American-theme promotion looked likely to be run off the road yesterday. A writ was lodged in the High Court yesterday accusing the fast-food firm of infringing a registered trade mark. Andre and Mairade Levy, a husband and wife team who own the Route 66 trade mark, are seeking an injunction to prevent McDonald's Restaurants using the name, which is central to its new television and radio campaign.

The Route 66 promotion was launched last month at a reputed cost of £5 million. The words "Welcome to Route 66" are prominently displayed in McDonald's outlets. The Levys are seeking damages for infringement of a registered trade mark or a percentage of profits from the promotion. It is further seeking an order requiring McDonald's to remove or obliterate the infringing goods.

Mr Levy accused McDonald's of lifting an almost exact replica of their registered brand. A dispute with the Town & Country catering firm over use of the Route 66 name was settled in 1991.

Mr and Mrs Levy have been the registered owners of the Route 66 trade mark for catering services since 1991 and for non-alcoholic drinks and other drinks since 1990. They hope to use the name on a range of branded products, including cigarettes, beer and clothing. The statement of claim alleges that McDonald's has used these marks and continues to do so.

McDonald's said it is taking legal advice and expects to defend the proceedings vigorously. The promotion is scheduled to run until the end of next month.



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Annual Saving: £10-20

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Counting the cost of the six most expensive official residences



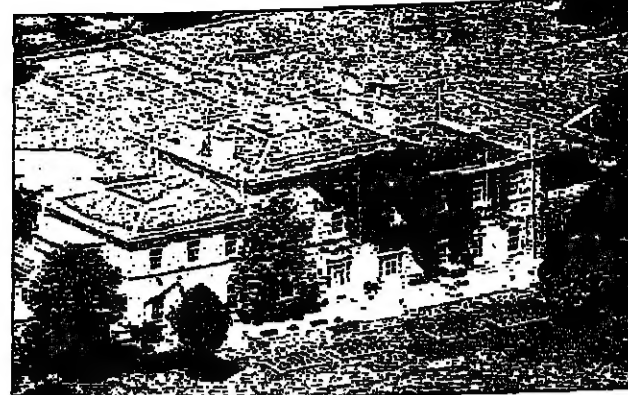
Haymes Garth cost £387,000 to refurbish

ELEVEN of the 78 official residences in the United Kingdom and abroad were investigated in a separate internal audit on the annual costs of maintenance. These are the six that cost the most:

- Bois de Mai, the Brussels home of Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, chairman of Nato's Military Committee, bought for £2.2 million, cost £231,000 in 1992, £305,000 in 1993 and £31,000 in 1994.
- 6 Bradenham Beeches, High Wycombe, temporary home of commander-in-chief

- Strike Command, cost £7,000 to maintain in 1992, £6,000 in 1993 and £494,000 in 1994 (because of conversion work).
- Mountbatten House, Portsmouth, home of Commandant General Royal Marines, cost £68,000 in 1992, £71,000 in 1993 and £212,000 in 1994.
- McKee House, RAF Benson, home of Air Officer Commanding No 1 Group — cost £270,000 in 1993. Figures for the other two years are not available.
- Admiralty House, Plymouth, home of Flag Officer,

- Plymouth, cost £139,000 in 1992, £77,000 in 1993.
- Springfield Lodge, High Wycombe, residence of commander-in-chief, RAF Strike Command, cost £63,000 in 1992, £88,000 in 1993 and £26,000 in 1994.
- Air House at Rheindahlen, Germany, home of commander-in-chief RAF Germany, cost £13,000 in 1993. In 1991, when Sir Sandy Wilson was the commander-in-chief RAF Germany, £205,000 was spent.



Admiralty House, Plymouth, cost £77,000 in 1993

£33,000 on curtains is a fair price, say designers

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE £33,000 spent on curtains for Haymes Garth, Sir Sandy Wilson's official residence in Cheltenham, was not extravagant given the size of the Edwardian house, according to interior designers.

The house, valued by estate agents at about £500,000, has 12 rooms with 20 large windows, four of which are bay windows. Jane Churchill, a leading interior designer, said that for a house of that size and character, money spent on curtains could be seen as an investment.

She said that spending £33,000 for curtains "doesn't sound at all absurd to me, bearing in mind that they will probably last a long time, and that the house will entertain a lot of distinguished people. If you do it on the cheap it's going to look cheap."

"An official of Sir Sandy's standing shouldn't have to just hang up any old muslin curtains. Just because it's a government building doesn't mean it should be dull."

Jessica Haynes, the decoration editor of *World of Interiors*, said that the figure quoted could be on the cautious side. "Decent fabric can cost anything from £40 to £400 a metre, and £33,000 wouldn't actually get you the best money can buy — far from it. Perhaps the extravagance was doing the house all in one go."

Her view was echoed by the spokesman of a large London-based interior design firm. "This is not at all a shocking quote if you are using decent fabrics," he said. "And bearing in mind that the house was probably furnished in character, you would need to buy all the trimmings such as tie-backs and pelmets."

Staff at John Lewis thought they could do the job for less. "Obviously a lot depends on the fabric, linings and extra, but we think we could probably do a very good job for between £15,000 and £20,000," a spokesman said.

Error of judgment that ended air chief's career

EVEN his best friends admit that Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson has been his own worst enemy. He has always been extremely ambitious, thrusting and often arrogant on his way up to one of the top jobs in the RAF.

However, those who know him well are convinced he has been ousted from his £95,000 job because of a "dirty tricks" campaign in the Ministry of Defence. He has made many enemies, some of whom, they say, have been spreading stories about his supposed personal involvement in the overexpending "scandal" at Haymes Garth, his official residence near Cheltenham which was upgraded at a cost of £387,000 from a two-star house to one suitable for a four-star air chief marshal.

Haymes Garth was in poor condition when the late Air Chief Marshal Sir John Thomson, then commander-in-chief of RAF Support Command, decided in 1992 that it should be renovated to become the official residence for the holder of a new RAF command which amalgamated personnel and training. Sir Sandy was the man appointed to that post which put him in charge of a budget of £880 million. A former RAF resident of Haymes Garth said that the east wing was propped up with girders.

Stories began to circulate of lavish spending at the house and allegations that Sir Sandy leant on his staff to get

■ Michael Evans describes how additional spending on the official RAF residence Haymes Garth coincided with defence cuts

Haymes Garth refurbished according to his personal tastes and the demands of his wife Mary. Sir Sandy's RAF superiors dismissed the smears being put about and said he was not personally responsible for authorising and monitoring the expenditure.

However, he had used his influence to ensure that the house was refurbished in a traditional style, with extra interior demolition work to provide more space for entertaining visitors. The additional work — and the £33,000 spent on curtains and £12,000 on carpets — was seen as a serious lack of judgment, especially since the extra spending coincided with cuts announced by the Ministry of Defence. The timing was fatal for Sir Sandy and perfect ammunition for his enemies.

Sir Sandy wanted to become the next Chief of the Air Staff to succeed Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon. There was only one serious rival, Sir John Thomson, who had moved from Support Command to take over RAF Strike Command at High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire.

Sir John was a much quieter man and had many supporters for the top job. When Sir Sandy was facing all the flak about overexpending on Haymes Garth, there was no mention of the fact that it was Sir John who had authorised the initial refurbishment, then to cost £250,000.

When Sir John died suddenly of a heart attack, Sir Sandy inevitably became, at least in his supporters' eyes, the man next in line to become Chief of the Air Staff. In such a role, he would undoubtedly have taken a strong and vociferous position on any future RAF cuts.

But he did not have enough friends in high places prepared to back him when Haymes Garth became a national issue. Sir Sandy had reached one of the most senior jobs in the RAF after a career which began in 1962. The initials of his Christian names, RAF — standing for Ronald Andrew Fellowes — were seen as an indication of where his destiny lay.

Sir Sandy, now 53 and with a daughter, stepdaughter and stepson, followed a classic RAF career path. Commissioned in 1962, he became a fighter pilot, flying Hunter and Phantom jets. He saw service in the Falklands after the ending of hostilities, holding the posts of Air Commander Headquarters of the British Forces as well as Station Commander of RAF Stanley.

Staff jobs at the MoD followed until his promotion to Air Vice-Marshal in 1987. In August 1990 he took initial charge of the British forces taking part in Operation Granby in the build-up to the Gulf War. He was succeeded in December that year by General Sir Peter de la Billière, but remained second in command.

Sir Sandy was promoted to commander-in-chief RAF Germany and then moved to Haymes Garth as head of the RAF's Personnel and Training Command and Air Member for Personnel on the RAF Board.

Rifkind's ultimatum, page 1
Simon Jenkins and Diary, page 16



Sir John: authorised initial refurbishment

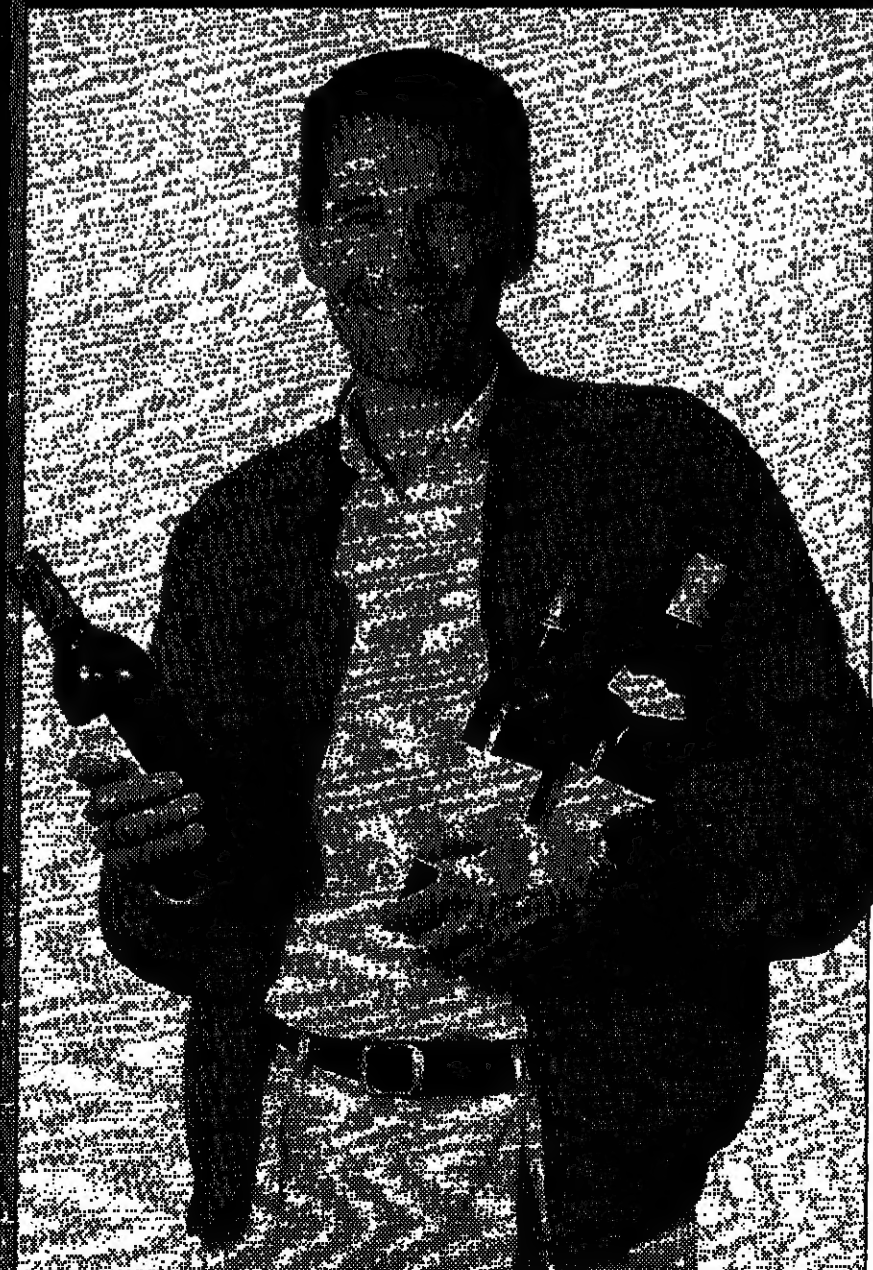


Sir Sandy's brash manner won him rapid promotion but made enemies too

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Police search Lord Brocket's country estate after four-year hunt for stolen Ferraris

Peer arrested over theft of classic cars worth £4m

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LORD BROCKET, a close friend of the Prince of Wales, has been arrested after a four-year investigation into the theft of four classic cars, worth £4.5 million, from the peer's estate.

Detectives searched Brocket Hall, the Old Etonian peer's 18th-century home in Hertfordshire, set in 5,000 acres, on Thursday. Lord Brocket, 42, was arrested and taken for questioning. Three other men were also arrested.

The investigation centred on the theft in May 1991 of three Ferraris, a Maserati and four classic car engines, worth £4.5 million, from a renovated stable block at the imposing hall, which has its own private airstrip.

The police reported that a gang drove a transporter van through electronically locked gates at the estate and removed the cars from an alarmed showroom. The cars have never been recovered. The theft of the cars, which had been reinsured by Lord Brocket a few weeks earlier, was likened by car experts to

stealing Picassos. Lord Brocket, whose £20 million car collection includes 40 Ferraris, said at the time: "I am left looking like an idiot." He said he had agreed the sale of the 1955 Ferrari to a Japanese client for £450,000.

For years Lord Brocket and his glamorous American-born wife, Isabella Lorenza, were one of the golden couples of the high society circuit. They met when the former *Vogue* cover-girl was on a modelling assignment at the hall in 1978. Their 12-year marriage ended in divorce in December. They have three children including Alexander, 10, the heir to the title.

Earlier this week Lady Brocket, 34, was reported to have attempted suicide for the second time in a year.

The couple's glamorous lifestyle could have come straight from the pages of *Hello!* magazine. Lord Brocket, a polo-playing friend of the Prince of Wales, is descended from one of England's oldest families which can trace its lineage back to the 5th century.

The family motto is *The Cat Strokes is Meek*. Lord Brocket's grandfather started the family on its aristocratic ascent by buying a baronetcy in 1921 for the equivalent of £500,000. He also bought Brocket Hall, the home of the Victorian Prime Ministers Palmerston and Melbourne.

It was in Brocket Hall that Lady Caroline Lamb, the one-time lover of Lord Byron, had herself served naked from a soup tureen before the startled Melbourne and his Cabinet.

Lord Brocket, the third baron, was born in 1952 and inherited the title in 1967. After schooling at Eton he joined the Army, serving as an officer in the 14th/20th King's Hussars.

He then had the inspired decision to turn the hall into a conference centre. It put him on first-name terms with captains of industry, the City and political leaders from all over the world. Margaret Thatcher met Presidents Gorbachev, Reagan and Bush in the gilded hall at Brocket. John Major has presided over countless EC summits there and machine

gunners are situated on the four corners of the roof when the EC roadshow is in town.

Some of Britain's leading businessmen hold seminars in Brocket's incomparable Chippendale library. The sequel to *Gone with the Wind*, starring Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, was filmed at the house in 1994. Lord and Lady Brocket were always there to greet their guests with trays of champagne and caviar.

Hiring the James Paine-designed building, complete with 48 bedrooms, 30 bathrooms and private golf course, costs up to £25,000 a day. Lord Brocket moved out of the hall because he was losing £60,000 a day in revenue to potential guests. The family moved into the redbrick Georgian laundry from the main house, which is called Watershyppes, the title of the estate in the 13th century.

The last set of filed accounts for the Brocket Collection show a £5 million overdraft and a £1 million bank loan.



Lord and Lady Brocket with two of his 40 Ferraris. The couple divorced in 1994

Battlefields notch up historic victory

BY JOHN YOUNG

TWO more historic English battlefields, Shrewsbury in Shropshire and Chalgrove in Oxfordshire, are to be added to the 41 in English Heritage's forthcoming register.

The battle of Shrewsbury was fought in 1403 between Henry IV's army commanded by Prince Henry — later Henry V, the victor of Agincourt — and a rebel force raised by the Earl of Northumberland. It ended in defeat for the rebels and the loss of between 6,000 and 7,000 lives.

English Heritage had excluded the battlefield because its boundaries could not be accurately defined. Only after lobbying by Robert Hardy, the actor, did it change its mind.

The 1643 Civil War battle of Chalgrove was excluded because it was rated a mere skirmish and did not last at least an hour, involve more than 1,000 men and cost at least 100 casualties. However, the John Hampden Society said it was far more than just a skirmish. The Royalist army numbered 1,300 men and 1,000 horses and, had Hampden not been killed, the history of the Civil War might have been different.

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♣6

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♥J4
♦1076543
♣Q753

W N E S
1♥(1) Pass 3♥(2) Pass 4♦
Contract: Five diamonds by South. Opening lead: ace of hearts
(1) Showing at least five (2) Pre-emptive

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Bridge is a game that is notoriously difficult to play with one's spouse. It is not clear why this is but a quick look around any bridge tournament will see many married couples bickering away. However, there are always exceptions. One of the most successful married partnerships are Peter and Dorthe Schaltz of Denmark. They were part of the Danish team that were runners-up in the 1993 European Championship and went on to represent Europe in the World Championships.

On this deal Peter's aggressive bidding as South led to the rocky game. West cashed the ace and king of hearts and

switched to the nine of spades. Declarer won with the ace, ruffed a spade, played a diamond to the queen and cashed the ace of diamonds. When this drew all the trumps he was in with a chance. He ruffed a spade back to hand and West discarded a heart.

West's distribution was now known — he had five hearts, two spades, two diamonds and therefore four clubs. As long as East's singleton was not the king or the two declarer was home. He played the queen of clubs, covered by the king, ace and ... six from East. Now declarer ruffed another spade and played his three of clubs. When West played the two declarer finessed dummy's four to make the contract.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Karpov strikes back

In round four of the FIDE semi-finals at Sanghi Nagar, India, Anatoly Karpov struck back to win against Gelfand, levelling the scores at two points each.

Meanwhile, game four between Salov and Kamsky has been adjourned in a position that will be drawn with Kamsky preserving his two-point lead.

Karpov, the reigning FIDE champion, possesses a superb intuitive feel for the shifting value of the pieces. In this game against Gelfand he subtly demonstrates that, under certain circumstances, a bishop can be worth more than a rook.

White: Karpov
Black: Gelfand
Linares 1993

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e5
3 Nf3 dxc4
4 Nc3 c5
5 Qa4+ b5
6 Qxc4 Bb7
7 Qd3 Bx4
8 e4 Nbd7
9 Nf4 Qa5
10 Bg5 c5
11 b3 gxf6
12 Bxf6 0-0-0
13 Be2 Kb8
14 0-0 Nc6
15 d5 Qxd5
16 Nxb6 Bb6
17 Ra1 Rb6
18 Qd4 Rf6
19 Qxf6 Rf8
20 Rd5 Rf8
21 Bc3 Rf8
22 Rd1 Rf8

23 Be2 Bc5
24 exd5 Bb6
25 Qh4 Rb5
26 Bc4 Rxd5
27 Bxd5 Rxd5
28 Re1 Rb6
29 Qd6 Qc7
30 g3 Bb6
31 Ng5 Rb7
32 Ra5+ Rb7
33 Ne4 Qc6
34 Qf5 Be7
35 Kg2 Rb7
36 Rf6 Qg6
37 Qc5+ Qc6
38 Qxc6+ Kxc6
39 Rb7 Kd5
40 Nd2 Bf6
41 Nc4 Kd4
42 Rf6 Rb6
43 g4 Rf6
44 R4 Rf6
45 g5 Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Refresher course

For those new to chess it is worth a reminder that a material advantage normally decides the game. A queen is worth 9 points, a rook 5, bishop and knight 3 and the pawns one each. The king is priceless, for when it is checkmated the game ends.

Winning Move.
Weekend, page 27

Value for money? That's the last thing on our list.

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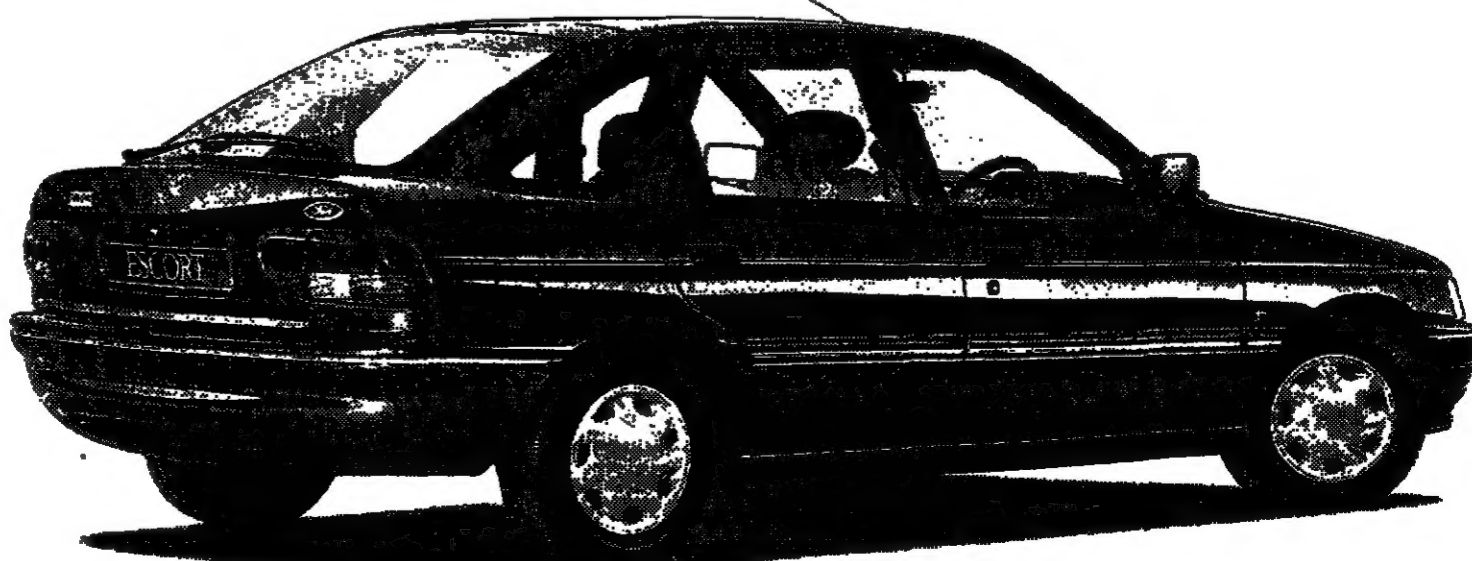
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Intrigue, jealousy and tragedy lay behind great geographical discovery of the Victorian age

Explorer's plaque reveals tale of rivalry on the Nile

BY ALAN HAMILTON

VISITORS to Kensington Gardens in London will be familiar enough with the story behind its best-known statue, that of Peter Pan. They may be less aware that behind the nearby obelisk to the memory of John Hanning Speke lurks a tale of intrigue, jealousy and ultimate tragedy.

That omission is about to be put right. Speke is to acquire a bronze plaque on his red granite plinth acknowledging that he was one of the two protagonists in a great geographical rivalry of the Victorian age: who should take the credit for discovering the



source of the Nile? While Speke took the honours, his fellow explorer Sir Richard Burton took severe umbrage. The new inscription, replacing the baldly uninformative

legend that the monument has borne since it was erected in 1866 two years after Speke's death, will be unveiled on May 4, the 168th anniversary of his birth. It is the inspiration of the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, a voluntary body set up in 1991 with the support of the Royal Parks Agency, the garden's owner, to make modest improvements to the park.

Barbara Abensur, chairman of the Friends, said yesterday: "It seemed to us that there were a number of statues and monuments in the park without any explanation. To anyone who does not know the name of Speke, his monument is at present virtually meaningless."

Speke and Burton were on an expedition to solve one of the great mysteries of Africa in 1857. Together they discovered Lake Tanganyika, but Burton then decided to rest — a serious tactical error — while Speke went off on his own to discover Lake Victoria and the mighty river that flowed from it. Speke made it back to London first and staked his



Speke, top left, returned to Africa with Grant to confirm his findings, right, after his original claim was disputed by Burton, below left



claim to immortality, without emphasising too strongly that he had been a member of Burton's expedition.

A furious Burton dismissed Speke's claim, saying that the alleged discovery was quite unproven. Speke returned to Africa in 1860 accompanied by the explorer James Grant to confirm his findings, and famously cabled the Royal Geographical Society from Cairo

in 1862, having walked the 4,187-mile length of the river: "The Nile is settled."

Dr Andrew Tatham, keeper of the Royal Geographical Society, said yesterday: "The source of the Nile was a major matter for 19th century geographers. There was, to say the least, a certain amount of controversy at the time as to the respective roles of the two men. The Speke family were

keen that Burton should receive no credit at all for the discovery, which is why the original plaque on the obelisk is so uninformative."

The new inscription will acknowledge that Speke "was the first European, in conjunction with Richard Burton in 1857 and later James Grant in 1862, to discover Lake Victoria as the source of the Nile". It will record, too, the man-

ner of Speke's death. The two men were to engage in a public debate of the British Association in Bath on September 15, 1864 to argue their respective claims to fame. That morning, Speke, having endured all the privations that Africa could throw at him, accidentally shot himself while out hunting partridge and died instantly.

His memorial was raised by

public subscription after an appeal by Sir Roderick Murchison, president of the Royal Geographical Society, in *The Times*. Speke's obelisk was designed by Philip Hardwick, RA, whose most famous creation was the Doric Arch at the old Euston station.

Burton's memorial is much less grand: a bust within the society's headquarters at Kensington Gore.

THE SOURCE OF THE NILE

The members of the Royal Institution held a special meeting last night to hear a lecture delivered by Captain Speke on the discovery of the source of the Nile. The lecture was given by the presence of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who was attended by General Knollys, Sir Roderick Murchison, and a numerous suite. The Prince was accompanied by the Comte de Paris and several other members of the late Royal family of France.

Before commencing his lecture Captain Speke introduced

How The Times reported Speke's discovery

Charities for children and homeless head queue for lottery handouts

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

CHARITIES dealing with children, health, the homeless and the unemployed are likely to head the queue for National Lottery money.

Absent from the list of initiatives earmarked for money at a meeting yesterday to launch the National Lottery Charities Board's guidelines for grant distribution were environment groups, animal welfare and medical research charities. However, the board promised to pay equal attention to large and small charities, and invited voluntary groups to comment on its plans.

The Hon David Sieff, board chairman and director of Marks and Spencer, said that the board intended to help those at greatest disadvantage. He emphasised that charities involved in political activi-

ties would not be supported. "We hope that, through giving grants, we will make an impact on the lives of people suffering poverty, disadvantage and discrimination," he said. "We aim to help prevent the emergence of new social problems, tackle causes of existing problems and address the needs they create."

Organisations concerned with women's issues, ethnic and cultural minorities and other groups affected by discrimination would also be regarded sympathetically, he said. The board, which will begin inviting applications by June, said that it will consult widely before making final decisions on distribution. Mr Sieff said: "Inevitably there will be many demands on the board's funds and we will have to make decisions about which causes should receive higher or lower priority."

Stuart Etherington, chief executive of

the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said: "The board will be swamped with applications and won't be able to satisfy everyone. It is so hard to prioritise because all charities say they are in need of money, and charities are also experts in applying for grants. The board may find that it comes under pressure to rethink its strategy."

Lottery organisers hope to give £9 billion to good causes over the next seven years. Hundreds of groups have requested help from the four other distributing bodies. The Arts Council has received 50 applications for £146 million available for distribution, the Millennium Fund has had 200 applications, the National Heritage Memorial Fund has received 70 applications for £50 million and the Sports Council has had 272 applications for a share of £70 million.

Fire engines used to go shopping

BY PAUL WILKINSON

FIRE CREWS in Newcastle upon Tyne are taking their engines on supermarket shopping runs because their car-ten staff have been sacked to save money. While firefighters race round the aisles picking up a week's groceries, colleagues wait outside in case an emergency call comes in.

Doug Henderson, Labour MP for Newcastle North, has demanded an explanation from Tyne and Wear fire chiefs. He said: "This is completely ridiculous. The shoppers who see this must wonder what is happening to our fire service."

Special constables deterred by attitude of regular police

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A FIFTH of Britain's 20,000 special constables resign each year, many because of the attitudes of friends and regular officers, according to a Home Office report yesterday.

Many specials, who work unpaid in evenings and weekends, complained about the way they were treated by officers, who they said, needed to be trained to work alongside them. Others said that they had been criticised by friends. A significant number said that they kept their membership secret.

The research, among more than 800 specials in London and Dorset, comes as the

Government considers paying an allowance to volunteers. The Home Office has launched a drive to push numbers up to 30,000. Last month a Hampshire teacher working as special was instrumental in the capture of three prisoners who escaped from Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight.

The recruitment drive has been successful, but the report highlights the need to do more to retain officers, who are increasingly used to relieve the pressure on regular police. The retention is high for a voluntary organisation, despite the turnover.

Average service is more than four years.

However, the report said that wastage should be reduced and called for better treatment and use of specials. Many needed to be made to feel valued and the Home Office should consider methods of allowing specials to rejoin after resigning when they move home.

Many joined because they were interested in joining the police full-time. The special attracted more women and recruits from ethnic minorities than the regular police. In Dorset in 1991 49 per cent of specials were women.



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Claiming animal 'rights' devalues cases of basic human need

One of the first tasks of any pressure group is to capture the language, thereby forcing its opponents constantly to acknowledge the group's concerns. The use of the phrase "animal rights" is a case in point. I fully share the concern of those who have coined it, that animals should be treated with respect and spared unnecessary suffering. But the phrase itself should be resisted.

To claim a "right" may be to do no more than to assert a strong moral demand. But

Credo

John Habgood

this is not the way the word is usually understood. Human rights seem to refer to some inherent quality or value in human life which demands recognition, which is backed by international agreements, and defines a boundary in the treatment of our fellow human beings that should not be crossed. Rights entail cor-

responding responsibilities, and both words imply the existence of a moral community within which there is some degree of shared recognition of the balance between them. Rights are most characteristically invoked as a means of protection against an oppressive state, the implication being that the moral community is wider than the individual state.

As presumed "rights" have multiplied, the mutuality between rights and responsibilities has diminished, and "rights" are proclaimed for

which nobody is, or could be, responsible. In fact they begin to look more like political ideals and less like inherently necessary conditions for a truly human life. One consequence of this gradual devaluation of the concept is to make it less effective in those extreme circumstances where it is really needed. The right not to be tortured, for instance, should be regarded as absolute, and not to be weakened by considerations of supposed political necessity. Against this background "an-

imal rights" seem highly dubious. Human beings unquestionably have a moral responsibility towards animals, but they do not form part of the same moral community with us; indeed they do not form part of any moral community, since they do not and cannot exercise any moral responsibility. Animals make a claim on us as sentient beings who need space and scope to live their own lives and to be spared suffering.

The claim is more strongly felt when their lives are

closely entwined with our own, and when it is clear that they can suffer pain and distress. But although pet owners frequently use moral language about their pets — "good dog, lazy cat" — few would imagine that they are actually moral beings. They cannot, therefore, have any rights towards each other. Nor is it clear how, say, the rights to life and to be spared unnecessary suffering can have any meaning for wild animals outside a human context, except in terms of some general obligation on

human beings to preserve the natural environment.

These are only some of the complexities to which the notion of "animal rights" gives rise. To suppose that they are inherent in some value or quality in animal life as such poses the further sharp question, which animals? All, or only some? And if all, on what grounds do we designate some as vermin?

Talk of "rights" seems to imply an absoluteness that is unsustainable in theory, and dangerous in practice, in that it inflates moral claims to the

point of inducing some protesters to disregard the legitimate claims of their fellow human beings. To talk instead about our responsibility towards sentient creatures places the moral imperative where it belongs, namely in ourselves, and also allows scope for negotiating some reasonable balance of responsibilities between one group and another.

Dr John Habgood is Archbishop of York

At your Service. Weekend, page 2

Churchgoers give twice as much as parents did

By Dominic Kennedy

WORSHIPERS each give twice as much in real terms to the Church of England as their counterparts a generation ago.

The average weekly contribution of between £2 and £3 still falls far short of the £5 which the Bishop of Chester recommended as appropriate for anyone who could afford tickets for a Football League match. The Bishop of Chester, the Rt Rev Michael Baughen, referring to the Church of England's financial crisis, provoked controversy when he said that too many people gave £1 a week or less when they could afford much more.

The Church Commissioners, who lost millions by investing heavily in property during the 1980s, announced this week that their biggest commercial asset, the Metro-Centre in Gateshead, was being sold to safeguard clergy stipends and pensions.

The Church carefully avoids recommending a weekly donation in case the rich treat it as a maximum and the poor feel stigmatised because they cannot afford it. An Anglican source said, however, that if every worshipper gave £5 a week, finances would be

healthy. The average parish electoral roll member gives £2.17 weekly to the Church, according to the latest figures for 1992. In 1964, the weekly contribution was slightly more than two shillings, which would be worth about £1.05 in contemporary terms.

The increased generosity of worshippers has ensured that the total received by the Church has risen in real terms over the past three decades, despite smaller congregations. In 1964, £14,961 was donated, which at current prices is worth £146,957. In 1992, £164,854 was received.

The figures take into account church collections, boxes and covenants. Covenanted giving has increased greatly from the equivalent of £20,755 (actual figure £2,113) in 1964 to £86,617 in 1992. The weekly average donated by covenant is £4.14.

Giving varies widely according to diocese. Londoners contribute an average of £4.30 a week. Among those who contribute least are worshippers in Lincoln (£1.33), Truro (£1.48), Hereford (£1.50) and Sodor and Man (£1.50).

The Church says giving remains "very modest" and warns that substantial increases will be required over the next few years to maintain a nationwide parochial ministry. Trends are encouraging. Giving rose 4 per cent faster than inflation in 1992. Planned, tax-efficient giving in particular rose by 7 per cent more than the cost of living.

Steve Jenkins, a spokesman for the Church of England, said: "What the Church recommends is that people give according to how much thanksgiving they feel they owe to God. Giving is all to do with saying thank you to God for his gifts."



Bishop Baughen: giving not high enough

Chorister ousted over 'pagan' shop

By Bill Frost

AN ACCOMPLISHED singer and devout Christian has been expelled from a church choir because of the "New Age paraphernalia" she sells at her gift shop.

Kate Harper, 56, a soprano, has been told that her services will not be required for the traditional Palm Sunday concert at St Kenelm's in Clifton-on-Terne, Hereford and Worcester. Keith Jaffrey, the choir-master, said the shop was not compatible with Christian worship.

Mrs Harper, who lives opposite the church, launched her business in Tenbury Wells four months ago. Among other items, she sells Tarot cards, Peruvian rain sticks and dowsing rods. She said: "If Keith came to me and said 'I'm not inviting you because you can't sing, I could understand it. But I'm not peddling por-

nography or casting spells on anybody."

"I've known him for 26 years and was flabbergasted — I was very upset and felt betrayed by a friend. My own Christianity is very simple. It's about being seen to practise what you preach."

Mr Jaffrey, a 55-year-old insurance underwriter, was unrepentant. "This is not about how good a person you are — it's a clash of beliefs," he said. "I felt the fact that she does this for a living now is incompatible with the fact that we are singing about somebody who said he was the only way."

The Rev Clifford Owen, rector of Clifton-on-Terne, Lower Sapey and the Shelsleys, has been asked to adjudicate in the dispute. "I may invite the bishop to step in," he said.



George Rylands, 92, surveying restoration work at the Festival Theatre in Cambridge. The Georgian building is due to reopen its doors to the public on March 10 with James Shirley's *The Lady of Pleasure*, 60 years to the day that Sir George directed *Antony and Cleopatra* at the same theatre

Oxford tries to curb new recruits to sexist club

By Ben Preston, Education Correspondent

THE United Oxford and Cambridge University Club faces a fresh threat as colleges attempt to switch off the supply of new members over its refusal to treat women equally.

The heads of Oxford colleges are expected to put pressure on the university's main graduate organisation to stop publishing advertisements for the club in *Pall Mall*, London. They want the Oxford Society, which has a membership of more than 40,000 former students, to stop helping the club to recruit graduates through its regular newsletters. Students are planning to demonstrate outside meetings in Oxford organised by the club this summer as part of its annual membership drive.

Sir Christopher Zeeland, principal of Hertford College, said: "We are a bit cheesed off with the Oxford Society for advertising the club. We think we may put a bit of pressure on them not to do so. Our women graduates are irritated and annoyed when they see advertisements for the club. We hope the society will no longer allow it to advertise."

A full-page advertisement in a recent issue of the newsletter boasts of the club's excellent catering facilities, magnificent library of more than 20,000 books and notable cellars. It says "applications for lady associate members are welcomed".

But the advertisement does not mention that women are forbidden full membership, use of the library, members' bar or the marble staircase. A spokesman for the Oxford Society refused to comment, saying: "This is an essentially private matter."

The move came as David Butler, the political scientist who triggered the furore by announcing his resignation in *The Times* last month, rejected the club's stance as "wholly negative". He dismissed a defence of the status quo, sent to members this week by the club chairman, Gerald Bowden, which suggested that most were happy with the present arrangements.

Dr Butler responded that many were "just the wives and daughters" of club members and were not Oxbridge graduates. "They cannot speak for the women members of the university — and their supporters — who find this second-class status so distasteful."

Dr Butler, a fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, criticised Mr Bowden's insistence that a ballot 18 months ago, rejecting the admission of women, was a "democratic decision" of members. He accused the club committee of "total insensitivity" to a

three to one vote in favour of change.

"In fact, the vote was 76 per cent to 24 per cent to admit women as full members. This was recorded in an astonishingly high turnout (62 per cent)." He said that a new rule requiring half of all members to vote for change was achieved in 1992 with "well-organised proxy votes".

Mr Bowden, a former Tory MP, told members that letters from "lady associate" members since the controversy became public suggested that most were happy with the present arrangements.

Dr Butler responded that many were "just the wives and daughters" of club members and were not Oxbridge graduates. "They cannot speak for the women members of the university — and their supporters — who find this second-class status so distasteful."



Butler, left, dismisses Bowden's defence of policy



Charter pair jailed

Paul Massey, 53, and Alan Curtis, 49, airline sales executives who claimed thousands of pounds in illicit commission from Britannia Airways, have been jailed for 18 months by Southwark Crown Court, south London. Henry Wolff, 69, a travel broker, was given a suspended sentence.

Drug alert

Lancashire Police have issued a warning after the deaths of a woman aged 19 and Mark Owen, 35, who are believed to have bought heroin from the same source in Blackpool.

Youths charged

Three teenagers were remanded in custody charged with murdering Richard Everitt, 15, who was stabbed to death at St Pancras, north London, last August.

Spinal cord first

Christopher Henley, 36, from Bradford, is the first person in Britain to receive a double spinal cord implant to relieve Raynaud's Disease, which causes frostbite-like symptoms.

Rendell honour

The crime writer Ruth Rendell is to receive an honorary doctorate of letters from the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

Marked down

Thieves stole 20 million 1920s German marks from a collector's home at Jarrow, Tyne and Wear. They have a face value of about 4p.

Airlines operate black market in take-off slots

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A SECRET "black market" is operating between airlines seeking to gain additional take-off and landing slots at Heathrow and other congested airports throughout Europe, the Civil Aviation Authority claimed yesterday.

Under-the-counter deals, involving one airline paying another to hand over its valuable slots, have been going on for years as airlines jostle to fly at the most convenient and popular times. Although not formally outlawed, there is no legal basis for the deals. The authority says that the black market should be recognised and airlines should be forced to declare which slots they buy and how much they pay.

"Secondary trading involving money payments are both necessary to maintain and improve flexibility in the system and are probably also inevitable," it says in a report to be sent to the European Union. "Such trading should be made transparent but without injecting more procedures or additional bureaucracy. The revised EC regulations should require that, where money changes hands, airlines must register all exchanges together with the sum paid."

The authority's study of slot distribution proposes the creation of a pool of thousands of take-off and landing times which would then be allocated to airlines in sufficient numbers to enable them to mount a

realistic competitive challenge on the most popular routes. Under EC regulations which came into force in 1993 and are due to be re-examined at the end of this year, larger airlines capable of operating sufficient services each day to mount a challenge to the existing operators are unable to obtain the slots.

Christopher Chataway, the authority chairman, said: "A central aim of the existing EC regulation concerning the distribution of slots is to stimulate competition and provide support for new competing airlines. But in practice it has fallen a long way short of achieving this. On many of the most congested routes there are still just two airlines who are used to co-operating rather than competing."

Proposals for an international airport in the heart of Oxfordshire have been scrapped. A private group of developers wanted to build the £4.5 billion Low Airport on farm land near Abingdon in an attempt to ease congestion at Heathrow and Gatwick.

Residents, local councils and MPs reacted angrily. Up to 3,413 houses in nearby villages would have been affected, with 87 having to be demolished to make way for two 4,000-yard runways.

The developers wrote to Oxfordshire County Council yesterday formally withdrawing the proposal, which had been submitted to the Department of Transport.

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Fifty years ago the Allied leaders met in the Crimean town of Yalta to divide a defeated nation

How the Big Three made Germany pay for wartime sins

ON FEBRUARY 11, 1945 the "big three" Allied leaders — Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin — concluded a week of talks in the Crimean town of Yalta, in a former Tsarist palace overlooking the Black Sea. In peacetime Yalta had been a popular holiday resort but the purpose of their meeting was anything but peaceful: to plan the final defeat and occupation of Germany.

It had already been agreed that post-war Germany should be divided into occupied zones administered by the Allies, although there had been some disagreement over whether France should have its own zone. Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union had already recognised General de Gaulle as head of the provisional French government, but Roosevelt was adamant that he should not be invited to Yalta.

For some reason Roosevelt

■ In another of our occasional series leading up to the VE-Day commemorations in May, John Young looks at Allied bargaining on the shape of post-war Europe

also wanted the British, who since the Normandy landings had occupied the left flank of the Allied advance and therefore spearheaded the drive into northern Germany, to swap places with the Americans further south.

But it was agreed that the Soviets would control a bloc extending 200 miles west of Berlin, the Americans would occupy the southern Rhineland and Bavaria, the British would be responsible for northwest Germany and the French would administer the Saar and most of the territory which it had historically disputed with Germany. Stalin was prepared to be concilia-

tory over the division of German territory, possibly because he did not foresee the Americans keeping troops in Europe for long and believed that once they left Germany would be his for the taking.

There was agreement that they had no obligation to German civilians other than to provide minimum subsistence; that all German industry that could be used for weapons production should be destroyed; and that war criminals would be tried before an international court. But Stalin demanded that forced labour should be used for repairing the devastation to his country. Churchill and Roosevelt,

however, argued that reparations should be paid for from the German people's post-war earnings, that there should be no seizure of capital assets and that, so far possible, living standards should be protected. They had no wish to repeat the tragic error of the Treaty of

Versailles, signed at the end of the First World War in 1919, which, by imposing impossibly harsh conditions on a defeated people, had paved the way for Hitler to exploit the feeling of national humiliation.

Equally, if not more, conten-

tious was the issue of Poland. Not only had Polish troops fought vigorously and heroically for the Allied cause, but Britain and the United States had maintained relations with the strongly anti-communist Polish government-in-exile in London. The Russians recog-

nised the communist-dominated Polish committee of national liberation in Lublin. A compromise was reached whereby a provisional government would include representatives of both groups pending free elections. Poland's border with Russia was agreed but its southern and western borders were left in abeyance. Both decisions infuriated Polish exiles, who foresaw *de facto* partition of their country or worse.

An agreement that had similarly unhappy consequences was that Marshal Tito, the Yugoslav partisan leader, would join Ivan Subasic, the royalist prime minister, in a government of national unity. Stalin also had his eye on possible gains for his Far Eastern empire.

At that stage the atom bomb was still on the drawing board. Roosevelt therefore believed that he would need Soviet help to finish the war in the Pacific. A secret agreement was reached whereby the Russians would enter the war against Japan two or three

months after Germany surrendered. In return it would be allowed to annex territory lost to Imperial Russia in the war between the Tsar and the Emperor in 1904-05.

Roosevelt agreed that Japan would cede the Kurile islands, still a bone of contention 50 years on, that the Soviet Union would be allowed to establish a naval base on the island of Sakhalin, and that Outer Mongolia would be granted independence from China. Stalin undertook to sign a treaty of friendship with the Chinese leader, Chiang Kai-Shek, and raised the possibility of appeasing him by agreeing to hand over Hong Kong, a suggestion which Churchill rejected.

Yalta has been blamed for many of the tribulations of the subsequent half century. But one positive outcome was agreement on a charter for the United Nations and the establishment of a permanent Security Council.

Dresden protest, page 11
Tim Garton-Ash, page 16



Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin wanted to avoid mistakes made by the Treaty of Versailles, imposing harsh conditions on a bitter people

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Tribute to American airmen takes off

MORE than £1.3 million has been raised in the United States towards the estimated £5.3 million needed to build an annex to the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire, to house American warplanes (John Young writes).

Charlton Heston, the actor, and Field Marshal Lord Bramall, former chief of the defence staff, are co-chairmen of the project, which

would commemorate the sacrifices made by American pilots flying missions over Nazi Germany. The display would include aircraft from later conflicts as well as the Second World War.

On Thursday night Baroness Thatcher helped the cause by speaking at a fundraising dinner in Houston, Texas. A committee has also been established to raise money in Britain.

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German Neo-Nazis send out call for anti-British protests at Dresden

Anniversary of bombing opens 'war crime' wound

FROM ROGER BOYES IN DRESDEN

A NEO-NAZI group is planning today to stage an anti-British demonstration in the centre of Dresden during the 50th anniversary commemorations of the Allied bombing of the city.

The city authorities have banned demonstrations by both left- and right-wing extremist groups during this sensitive anniversary but the so-called "Federation for a United Germany" plans to go ahead anyway. The group is close to the well-established National Party of Germany and has been sending calls for the demonstration to computer mailboxes and over a special telephone line for far-right sympathisers.

The move raises the question of how the people of Dresden now regard the British and Americans, half a century after the bombing that razed their city. The first raid, by the RAF, was on February 13, 1945. It was followed by three raids by the then US Army Air Force.

Ursula Wilde, now a retired bookkeeper, was 24 at the time of the firebombing and fled from cellar to cellar to escape the intense heat and the collapsing buildings. She remembers it all: the panic, the rush for water, the corpses underfoot, the suffocated and the charred. "No," she says now, "I don't hate the British."

In October 1992 eggs were thrown at the Queen who was greeted with placards de-

manding: "Away with Bomber Harris!" But the context was different: only months before a statue had been unveiled in London to the mastermind of RAF Bomber Command, Sir Arthur Harris, and anger was running high in Dresden. Harris is still regarded in Dresden as a war criminal.

A young taxi driver on the road from the airport points to the large barracks recently vacated by the Russian troops.

THE SURVIVORS

"No metaphor of hell can fully describe the firestorm."

Dresden's bombers and victims recall the air raids.

In The Times on Monday

"They were occupied by the Wehrmacht before, and yet they were not touched by a single bomb," he says. "Can you tell me why he didn't select any military targets?"

There will be no RAF representative at the ceremonies on February 13. Instead, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, the Chief of the Defence Staff, will lay a wreath at the main grave of unidentified victims. The principal British representative will be the Duke of Kent.

Attempt to save victims

Paris: Allied troops did try to save Nazi concentration camp inmates towards the end of the Second World War, despite widespread accusations to the contrary, France's best known spy-master says in his memoirs.

Jacques Foccart, an aide to General Charles de Gaulle, the French leader, writes that he headed the French contingent of an allied unit trained to be parachuted into the

camp to prevent retreating SS guards from massacring the inmates as Germany collapsed. But M Foccart says the scheme was called off after a first team vanished without trace after being dropped into the heart of Nazi Germany.

A second team was captured by the Germans and, after escaping, was imprisoned by advancing Soviet forces. (Reuters)

inflicted wound still hangs in the air. Dr Herbert Wagner, the Mayor of Dresden, is very clear about this: "We know that this war brought about 40-45 million dead throughout the world, and we are well aware who started the war."

The communists, he said, manipulated the Dresden bombing to make it an indictment of West German and American "militarism". Nowadays Dresden's school classes discuss the bombing but always in the broader context of the war. English language classes use a textbook that deals with both the Dresden and the Coventry bombings. The engineer supervising the rebuilding of the Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), which collapsed in the intense heat of the raid, receives threatening mail. But again this is part of a different debate. The Frauenkirche was allowed to stay as a blackened mountain of rubble as a political warning against militarism. The project to restore the church was therefore regarded as controversial.

The latest restoration estimate of 400 million marks (£168 million) has reawakened the critics, but anti-British sentiments play only a marginal role. On the contrary, the work of the Dresden Trust, whose supporters include Canon Paul Oestreicher of Coventry Cathedral and Lord Menuhin, the musician, have helped to soothe the mood. The Trust has been raising money for the restoration of the Frauenkirche; significantly, the Queen has made a private contribution of several thousand pounds to the Trust.

As a student, Goethe stood on the upper gallery of the Frauenkirche and surveyed a landscape of ruins. The sacrifice told him: "Das hat der Feind getan" [the enemy did that]. The enemy forces were the Prussians who besieged Dresden in 1760.

The city was never, of course, so completely bombarded as on February 13-14.



The scene from Dresden's city hall in the aftermath of the allied bombing raids

1945. More than 3,500 tonnes of explosive and phosphorous were dropped. Twelve thousand buildings were destroyed, including 25 churches and five theatres. The Army Museum was not touched. According to the latest estimates by German historians, 25,000 people died.

The writer Christoph Dieckmann puts Dresden in the new German perspective. "We can say, not as witnesses, nor as prosecutors, that Dresden was an Allied war crime instigated by Hitler's Germany," he says. "Goering would not have hesitated for a second to Coventry-ise British cities if he had been able."

at the same time: "Germany's liberators also waded in blood. Soldiers are murderers, war has no other use for them."

Dresden wants a little more from Britain than Britain is prepared to give. Not exactly an apology — that plainly will not be forthcoming — but a critical revision of its own role in the raids. Not even the tolerant Dresden Mayor can understand the erection of the statue of Harris.

Die Woche newspaper commented this week with amazement that the RAF Museum in London has dedicated a hall to 55,000 fallen British and Commonwealth airmen. "Almost

every air target is scrupulously recorded there. But there is no reference to Dresden," the paper said.

An elderly greengrocer said: "We would like to see the Queen make a gesture similar to Willy Brandt at the Warsaw ghetto memorial, a gesture of remorse. But before she can do this, the English will have to recognise that they committed a great wrong."

Memorial defaced: Vandals sprayed graffiti on the memorial to victims of the bombing, police said. One slogan read: "Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka, German perpetrators are not victims." (Reuters)

Turks see gains to be made from Greek EU veto

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

GREECE'S attempt to block closer ties between the European Union and Turkey may ultimately work in Ankara's favour, Turkish officials and business executives believe.

Athens announced on Thursday that it would not lift its objections to Turkey proceeding to a full customs union on manufactured goods with the EU, pending an improved deal over Cyprus and increased compensation for its textile sector. Yet that decision will immediately harm European manufacturers, who now pay an estimated £1.3 billion in tariffs to get access to Turkish markets.

Under the schedule for customs union, Turkish manufacturers enjoy free access to European markets with the important exception of quotas on textiles and clothing. Should agreement with Brussels be signed, it becomes the turn of Turkish industry to lift an average 12.8 per cent level

of protection. Over the past year, most Turkish manufacturers have become reluctant converts to customs union. The common belief is that Turkey can only survive in the long term by being a member of the trade bloc, according to Yavuz Canevi, former head of the Turkish central bank.

It is the short-term adjustment which terrifies Ankara. Turkish industry is being asked to make a structural adjustment at a time when wholesale prices are rising at 150 per cent a year and interest rates make commercial borrowing an impossibility.

The prospect of being denied the forbidden fruit of Europe has now excited a previously apathetic or even hostile public.

In Nicosia, a spokesman for the Cyprus Government said last night that it had no alternative but to accept the Athens decision to continue negotiations on issues relating to the island.

New Vikings seek fortunes at sea

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A THOUSAND years after their forefathers ravaged the English coast, Britain has locked horns with latter-day Vikings threatening pillage and plunder. This time it is not Danegeld they seek, but the riches that lie beneath the sea — in particular, the oil and gas resources off the Shetlands.

Britain and the Faroes each claim underwater drilling rights in the continental shelf around their islands. But their zones overlap, and for the past 20 years the two countries have been negotiating intermittently. Unable to agree, they now face three choices: a final push to reach a solution, a ruling by the International Court of Justice or a new Viking war.

The first option is the most likely. A Foreign Office legal team, including a naval hydrographer, will resume talks with the Faroese later this month, after a meeting in

Copenhagen between Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Edmund Joensen, the leader of the Faroes Home Rule Government. Both sides insist they want an amicable settlement, and do not want to take the dispute to The Hague.

The Faroes, an archipelago of 17 rocky islands midway between the Shetlands and Iceland, are a self-governing part of Denmark, first settled by Irish monks, colonised by the Vikings and Christianised by the king of Norway 990 years ago. The Vikings once occupied much of Britain and Scotland; in the Second World War Britain controlled the Faroes after the Germans occupied Denmark.

The barren islands support only about 45,000 people who make a good living from fish — but the oil potential could bring them the same bonanza that has transformed the Shetlands.

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TIM92

Christians fearful after Pakistan death sentences

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

THE sentencing to death of two Christians, one a 14-year-old boy, for blasphemy against the Prophet Muhammad has highlighted the increasing persecution of religious minorities in Pakistan. Both were shot and wounded by Islamic fanatics during their year-long trial. A third accused was shot dead.

After being found guilty, Salamat Masih and Rehmat Masih, 40, were ordered to do two years' hard labour and pay heavy fines before being executed. It is only the second time the death sentence has been imposed since parliament amended the penal code in July 1992, raising the blasphemy penalty from life imprisonment to death.

In the first case, a higher court acquitted the accused on appeal. The law says that anybody who "directly or indirectly" defiles the name of the Holy Prophet, whether visibly or by innuendo, must be

executed. The wording has been criticised as too vague. A person can be convicted of blasphemy on the word of a single witness. The religious passion surrounding the case has demonstrated the extent of Islamisation of Pakistan's civil and criminal laws since the early 1980s, leaving minorities vulnerable. The sentencing to death of a child has outraged human rights organisations. He is on death row at Lahore Central Jail.

During the trial, fundamentalist mullahs led demonstrations demanding execution of the two Christians, accused by an imam (prayer leader) of throwing scraps of paper, containing blasphemous remarks, into a mosque. Asma Jahangir, the lawyer chairwoman of the Pakistan Human Rights Commission who is representing the accused, said in Lahore last night that the verdict had left religious minorities feeling threatened.

"It gives an invitation to religious terrorist groups to seek fresh victims by using the law," she said. "Even if the execution is never carried out, it is inhumane and unjust to impose the death penalty on a child." An appeal had been lodged with Lahore High Court and she was optimistic that bail would be granted to both accused within a month.

Three gunmen on a motorcycle shot the two accused, both Roman Catholics, as they left a court hearing in Lahore last April, seriously injuring them. A human rights worker accompanying them was also wounded. Three suspects, all said by police to be members of Islamic terrorist groups, have been charged and released on bail. Religious minorities make up 5 per cent of Pakistan's population of 124 million. Most Christians, numbering about 2.5 million, are Roman Catholics belonging to the multi-denominational Church of Pakistan, which includes Anglicans, American Methodists, Lutherans and Scottish Presbyterians.

Pakistan's judicial system has been steadily weakened by the parallel operation of the Sharia courts, which prescribe Islamic punishments — including stoning, public flogging and amputation. Successive leaders of Pakistan, founded in 1947, have attempted to exploit religion to define the nation, which was declared an Islamic republic in 1956. There is little else to unite it: ethnic, linguistic and tribal battles, fuelled by drugs and a pervasive gun culture, threaten to tear it apart.



For all their beauty, Cambodian villages are among the poorest in South-East Asia and in dire need of healthcare. British agencies say

Britons win reprieve for Cambodia aid mission

By Eve-Anne Priorities, Diplomatic Correspondent

DISMAYED British aid workers in Cambodia have persuaded the British Government to think again about a decision to stop funding them unless they abandon the countryside and return to Phnom Penh.

The order to retreat to the capital, issued by Paul Reddick, the British Ambassador, has caused outrage among many British-funded aid agencies, which fear that the Cambodian peace process, as well as the country's poor, will suffer if their projects are delayed. The ruling was issued in the aftermath of the abduction and killing by embattled Khmer Rouge guerrillas last year of three young Britons in two incidents. The decision to review the aid was taken after a meeting in London on Thursday between Tony Baldry, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, Overseas Development Administration officials, and aid agency heads, including representatives of Oxfam, Save the Children, Voluntary Service Overseas, and Help the Aged. The Government is to announce its final decision on Tuesday.

Justin Byworth, Asia programme officer for World Vision UK, one of the agencies affected, said yesterday: "We were extremely concerned and we are pleased that, in our meeting with the Foreign Office and the ODA, they expressed their willingness to review the situation." World Vision UK runs two projects in Cambodia — one in Battambang city and one in the countryside in Kompong Traich — which provide healthcare for 50,000 people using a hospital and clinics. The ODA is due to pay half the £100,000 costs of running the schemes this year unless the funding is withdrawn.

Ruth Ashe, 35, a nurse who runs World Vision UK's Battambang project, said yesterday she wanted to continue working in the provinces, even if the ruling is upheld. "I have been here two and a half years and the security situation has worsened. But it is not like Grozny. All the aid agencies have a good security co-ordinating system, with 24-hour UN radios. We pay attention to all local reports and do not venture out if we think it is dangerous. We are not stupid. If it were that bad we would pull out. The ruling was devastating. Our project is in a very needy area and the people who would suffer are the worst off. To leave would undermine everything we have done."

A senior Cambodian security official, meanwhile, confirmed the defection of the most senior Khmer Rouge official yet from the Maoist-inspired insurgent faction, Sar Kim Lamouth, the Khmer Rouge's equivalent of finance minister, came over to the government side in early November, but his change of allegiance had been kept secret.

Setback for Hekmatyar

Kabul: Fighters of the militant Afghan student movement, Taleban, captured the provincial capital of Maidan Shahr yesterday, driving out forces of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami party.

Muhammad Rabbani, the Taleban leader, said his fighters had launched a second attack on the town, the capital of Wardak province, at midnight and captured the town by 2am. Hezb-i-Islami had repulsed an earlier fierce Taleban attack on the strategic town, about 18 miles south of Kabul, on Tuesday. However, Izatollah Noon, the local Hezb-i-Islami garrison commander, said later he was prepared to negotiate with the attacking student militants.

Maidan Shahr is a strategic centre on the main road to Kabul, the Afghan capital, from the south. It sits on an open valley with snow-capped mountains on either side.

With their control of the town, the Taleban force will be poised to continue on to Kabul or turn east to increase pressure on Hezb-i-Islami's headquarters at Charasayab in the next valley. (Reuters)

Kobe cat Ugly rescued from quake rubble

Tokyo: Mewing from under a shattered factory led workmen to a cat which they pulled out of rubble 21 days after the earthquake that devastated much of Kobe in western Japan last month.

Workmen were clearing debris from the factory on Tuesday when they heard the weak call of a trapped cat, Toshiro Moriuchi, a Kobe veterinary surgeon, said yesterday. But the cat, named Busu, or Ugly, had to wait several more hours as workmen removed iron plates and bars by acetylene torch to reach it.

The cat's right paw needs to be amputated because it was crushed between a locker and a sewing machine in the earthquake on January 17. Mr Moriuchi said. The tortoiseshell cat is being nursed back to health so that it can survive the surgery. The cat's owner, the president of the factory firm, was said to have been a quake survivor.

Volunteers are also caring for pets rescued from the rubble which lost their owners in the disaster. The quake killed at least 5,296 people and destroyed tens of thousands of buildings. A week ago, a six-month-old golden retriever, weak but otherwise well, was rescued from the rubble. (AP)

Japanese confess to vivisection of PoWs

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

SIX veterans of Unit 731, the germ warfare experimentation group of the Japanese Army in the Second World War, yesterday broke a 50-year silence about their participation in gruesome experiments on live prisoners of war.

The men publicly confessed their involvement in the experiments and recounted their experiences in a booklet. "Only once did I use the scalpel on a living prisoner of war, to open his chest, a 72-year-old former army doctor said. He admitted, however, that he had witnessed a number of other vivisections conducted on PoWs in the unit's facilities in Manchuria.

"The dissections were sometimes conducted on fully conscious people without anaesthetic. Their screaming was terrifying, but their voices would die away," he said.

Unit 731 was active in China, primarily in Manchuria, in the years leading up to and including the war. Army doctors conducted secret experiments, including injecting deadly diseases, vivisection, and partially freezing live victims, mainly Chinese, Russians and Mongolians.

Some of the germ warfare experiments were conducted on the local population. Takeo Wano, 71, a former medical orderly, said that army physicians contaminated local wells with deadly germs under the pretence of carrying out water tests. Mr Wano, who participated in the experiments, said he only found out the real purpose of the water test after the war.

The macabre research activities of Unit 731 remained secret in the immediate post-war period, even during the Tokyo war crime trials. Historians say that the knowledge gathered by the unit was considered so valuable by American commanders at the time that many of the doctors responsible for the experiments were allowed to go free in exchange for their data.

China child policy 'disaster'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S policy of one child per family is collapsing, with disastrous consequences, according to population experts.

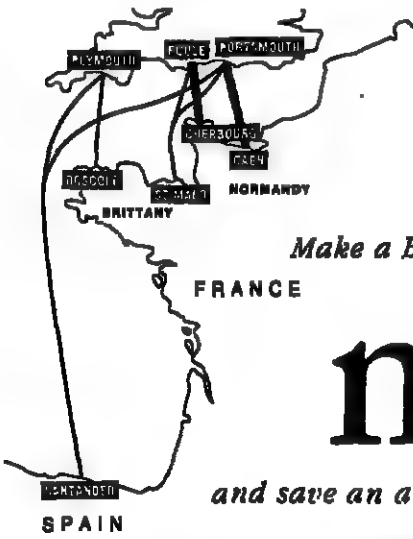
Marcus Feldman, of Stanford University in California, says that because of traditional preference for boys and the pressures of the one-child policy, the abortion of female foetuses and the killing of infant girls will lead to 110 men of marriageable age for every 100 women within 25 years.

Writing in the *Science* journal, he states that the use of ultrasound, genetic screening and amniocentesis are being used by Chinese to determine the gender of foetuses and to abort them if they are female. The Peking Government has recently banned the use of ultrasound machines for gender determination, but an estimated 10,000 have been introduced into the country since 1979, and peasants pay heavily to ensure they will have sons. It has been estimated that 97.5 per cent of abortions are performed on female foetuses.

Professor Feldman says the increasing shortage of women, which is already acute in many parts of China, will lead to more prostitution, much older marriages, and a decisive advantage for rich men who will be able to offer more money to prospective brides.

Chinese newspapers regularly report the abduction of women. Last December, 11 kidnappers were sentenced to be shot after they had taken 102 women, some of whom they raped before selling them in distant provinces to rich peasants. Two abducted women were recently imprisoned for attempting to murder their husbands. A newspaper recently published photographs of abandoned dead babies under the headline "Mothers, take back your daughters".

The population in China is surging because there are so many fertile women. The official Xinhua news agency reported last month that, over the next 35 years, China's population will rise from 1.2 billion to 1.63 billion. The country "can only support a population of 1.5 to 1.6 billion", Zhang Zhenghua, a deputy director of the Family Planning Commission, has said.



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RDAY FEBRUARY 11
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Zedillo steps up fight to crush Mexican rebels

By DAVID ADAMS

MEXICAN troops reportedly pushed deep into rebel territory in the southern state of Chiapas yesterday after President Zedillo ordered a massive search to capture "Subcomandante Marcos" and named the masked charismatic leader of the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

Señor Zedillo said on Thursday that the rebel chief's real name is Rafael Guillén Vicente, a well-educated man in his mid-thirties from a middle-class family in Tampico, Tamaulipas, on the northeastern border with America. Señor Zedillo ordered his arrest with other rebel leaders, and accused them of planning "new and greater acts of violence, not only in Chiapas but in other parts of the country".

Mexican officials said they have discovered caches of weapons and explosives at rebel safe houses in Mexico City and the eastern state of Veracruz. Troop movements

were reported yesterday around the town of San Cristóbal de las Casas, scene of the Zapatista uprising a year ago. Rebels declared a red alert in response to Señor Zedillo's announcement and said they had mined mountain paths and roads around their bases.

Experts said the President, who took office barely two months ago, was gambling on a quick victory to counter his weak and indecisive image and to lift national spirits during an economic crisis that has led to a dramatic rise in unemployment, dented savings, and caused a sudden rise in the cost of living.

The Zapatistas are no match for the Mexican Army, which has deployed about 15,000 troops in the state since the rebellion began in January last year. The rebels control the Lacandon rain forest, an almost impenetrable mountainous area in the east of the state, where they claim to have

several thousand lightly armed fighters.

Analysis said that if the army does not quickly capture the rebel leaders and disarm the Zapatista forces, Chiapas could face a prolonged conflict. In that event, the effect on an already battered Mexican stock market and the devalued peso could further undermine economic confidence among foreign investors on whom the country relies. That scenario is of particular concern to the Clinton Administration which last week put together a \$50 billion (£32.2 billion) loan package to help to stabilise the Mexican economy.

Community leaders sympathetic to the rebels called for international action to prevent civil war breaking out. Mgr Samuel Ruiz, the Bishop of San Cristóbal, urged the Government to rethink its actions. "No effort to negotiate a political solution can be as costly for Chiapas and the



A Mexican official compares a picture of Rafael Vicente with the masked Zapatista rebel leader, Marcos

country as the sufferings and destructive consequences of a military confrontation," he said.

Analysts said the Government's evidence of Zapatista plans to mount a campaign of terror may be exaggerated. The arms caches consisted of

six grenade-launchers, one Uzi sub-machinegun, two pistols, and a small quantity of explosives. Señor Zedillo's actions are probably motivated more by his political troubles and image problem than any security threat in Chiapas, which has been largely con-

tained for more than a year. The operation bears a striking similarity to a crackdown by Señor Zedillo's predecessor, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who in his early days in office won much-needed backing by arresting a corrupt and powerful oil-workers' union leader, Joaquín Hernández. "This is an attractive way for Zedillo to recuperate his lost image," said Lorenzo Meyer, a leading political commentator. "If it goes well, he will unite the conservative majority of the country behind him. But it's a big risk," he said.

WORLD SUMMARY

Russian leader to visit

London: Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, is coming to Britain next month for a three-day visit that is expected to cement London's close ties with Moscow despite the Chechen war (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Chernomyrdin will have talks with John Major and is to focus on the burgeoning trade relations between the two countries. The Russian leader is also expected in Britain in May to represent President Yeltsin at the 50th anniversary commemorations of VE-Day.

British link to bombing

New York: A British link to the World Trade Centre bombing emerged last night when it was disclosed that Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, the accused mastermind, escaped from the United States using a Pakistani passport in the name of Abdul Basit, a former engineering student in Swansea (James Bony writes). Mr Yousef is an Iraqi who was captured in Pakistan. Welsh universities were checking last night to see if he is on their records.

New Cabinet for India

Delhi: P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Prime Minister, has retained Manmohan Singh, architect of the Government's economic reform programme, as Finance Minister in his new Cabinet. The ailing Dinesh Singh, who becomes a minister without portfolio, was replaced as Foreign Minister by Pranab Mukherjee, Commerce Minister in the outgoing Cabinet. (Reuters)

Sausage dogs

Rabat: Moroccan police have arrested a Casablanca butcher after they discovered that he was selling sausages which were stuffed with dog meat. The man had been advertising his wares as "spicy and delicious". (Reuters)

Family demands release of jailed Cuban general

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

THE family of a top Cuban general, jailed in 1989 for his alleged role in a drug trafficking scandal that rocked the country, is demanding his release after a United Nations human rights body declared that his trial was unlawful.

In a ruling made public this week, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, declared that the trial of General Patricio de la Guardia, 55, who was sentenced to 30 years in jail, was a violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The UN group asked the Cuban Government "to take the necessary measures to remedy the situation".

"That can only mean one thing, that he be freed," said Jorge Masetti, who is married to Señora de la Guardia's niece, Ileana, a 30-year-old psychologist. Her father, Colonel Antonio (Tony) de la Guardia, was sentenced to death in the same trial and executed by firing squad with another top officer, General Arnaldo Ochoa. In all, four officers were executed and nine others jailed. The trial marked the greatest scandal in 30 years of revolutionary rule in Cuba.

For Ileana, the memory of her father lives on in a curious and doubly painful way. Her uncle, Patricio, is her father's identical twin. He is detained in virtual solitary confinement

in the prison of Güines, outside Havana. He is allowed to receive family visits every 21 days. Apparently his only distraction is painting.

Ileana, and relatives of the family in Cuba and the United States, have long claimed Patricio's innocence. They say that his trial and 30-year sentence were a legal farce.

The twins were among President Castro's most privileged and trusted officers, playing a key role in Cuba's international crusade to foment revolutionary movements across Latin America. Tony earned a reputation as a sort of Cuban James Bond when he was in

the Interior Ministry's elite special troops, shipping money and arms wherever Castro dictated.

Tony's mission was also tailored to Cuba's international economic predicament — the US trade embargo. Cuba developed ways around the embargo by ingenious, often illegal, schemes. Tony began dealing with Colombian drug cartels, offering to launder money through Cuba's tourist industry, which was desperately seeking cash to build hotels.

The de la Guardia family contends that when America found out, the Cuban Government did what it could to protect Castro, and the twins took the fall.

The twins were arrested on June 12, 1989, on the eve of their 51st birthday. Tony was executed a month later after the hastily arranged trial. Patricio was sentenced to 30 years in jail for not denouncing his brother.

In a letter smuggled out of prison a year later, Patricio said that the trial was staged. In return for leniency, he said, he had been told to plead guilty and avoid implicating more senior officials, even though his brother's drug deals had been approved "by the highest authorities in the country".



Antonio de la Guardia: executed in 1989



Bono: star of rival Republican gala

Clinton upstaged by grand old party

By MARTIN FLETCHER

THIS is a tale of two dinners that vividly illustrates how power has shifted in Washington since the Republicans seized control of Congress.

For the first time in memory, a White House state dinner was rivalled on Thursday night by another event of perhaps greater allure in this status-conscious capital.

Admittedly some of the black limousines clogging Washington's streets were heading for 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, where President Clinton was honouring Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor. But the majority were heading for the Washington Convention Centre and a \$1,000-a-plate Republican black-tie dinner. The event raised \$11 million (£7.1 million), making it the single biggest fundraiser in American history.

The White House dinner was described by social commentators as "restrained and low-key", the guest list "sober". The 126 invitees were politicians, diplomats and businessmen, with hardly a celebrity or film star to lighten the mix. The only memorable joke was Mr Clinton's observation that his long-serving German counterpart — and fellow trencherman — had visited Washington so many times that "on his last trip here he took me to his favourite restaurant".

A few blocks away at the Convention Centre there were 4,100 guests and, by contrast, an atmosphere of riotous exuberance. There was a victory parade of all the Republican Governors, Senators and Congressmen who triumphed last November. Behind the head table was a 120ft replica of the Capitol, now in Republican hands for the first time in 40 years.

The White House guests were entertained by Tony Bennett, the veteran crooner, the Republicans by the far more glamorous Natalie Cole as four giant screens offered close-up views of Nat King Cole's celebrated daughter. Sonny Bono, the former singer and actor and now a California congressman, also graced the party.

"It's a grand night for the Grand Old Party," proclaimed Haley Barbour, the Republican Party chairman. If the party did not have such an embarrassment of leaders "we could have called it a coronation," declared Trent Lott, the Senate Whip.

Shorter US primary season drives all but richest away

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DAN QUAYLE'S abrupt withdrawal from the 1996 presidential contest triggered a race yesterday among the remaining Republican contenders to woo his religious Right base, and has increased the chances of Pete Wilson, California's Governor, entering the contest.

Phil Gramm, the Texas senator, declared he was the only true conservative left and swiftly announced his implacable opposition to Henry Foster, President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon-General who has aroused conservative enmity by admitting performing abortions.

Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee governor and Education Secretary, claimed he was now the one true Washington "outsider" seeking the Republican nomination, the only other heavy-

weight contender being Robert Dole, the Senate leader.

Mr Wilson no longer denies he will be a candidate and is now said to be tilting towards running. Given his California base, he is probably the only Republican aside from the three main runners who could raise the necessary funds in time. William Weld, the Massachusetts Governor, indicated on Thursday that he would run if Mr Wilson did not.

A Gallup poll yesterday showed 55 per cent of Americans did not believe President Clinton should seek re-election, and that Mr Dole would beat Mr Clinton by 51 to 44 per cent.

Mr Quayle insisted he was withdrawing to spare his family the rigours of yet another arduous campaign, but Republican insiders said the real reason was the former Vice-

President's inability to win the backing of the big donors.

Mr Quayle is the fourth prominent Republican to withdraw for financial reasons, the others being former Cabinet Secretaries Jack Kemp, Richard Cheney and William Bennett and South Carolina's former Governor Carroll Campbell.

Their departures illustrate how the race has been changed by the decision of California and New York to bring forward their primaries, effectively condensing the season into a mere seven weeks. Candidates must now raise a minimum \$20 million (£13 million) — roughly \$50,000 a day — before the season starts. They can no longer bank on an early victory in Iowa or New Hampshire to generate funds because there will not be time.

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Sudanese rebels hold foreign aid workers hostage

FROM SAM KILEY IN NATINGA, SOUTHERN SUDAN

FIVE foreign aid workers were being held hostage yesterday by a splinter group of southern Sudanese rebels after they were captured when the town in which they were working was attacked.

The rebels, former members of the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM), released six other relief workers taken earlier this week. The hostages were held for 24 hours after the United Nations bartered for their freedom with food. The SSIM, which split from the Sudan People's Liberation Army in 1991, said yesterday that it would seek a reconciliation with the SPLA.

Sally Burnheim, a spokeswoman for the UN's Operation Lifeline Sudan, said yesterday that the five hostages and their captors had been spotted moving north of the village of Pulturuk. "Radio contact was established and

the hostages are OK," Miss Burnheim said. "But the intentions of the kidnappers are not clear." She declined to give names and nationalities until next of kin were informed. "The hostages are all well and haven't been mistreated, but, at least until yesterday, we know they had been without food and water for more than 30 hours."

Southern rebels, claiming to be fighting for independence or regional autonomy for southern Sudan from the Islamic fundamentalist regime in the north, have kidnapped and killed foreign aid workers in their areas over the past four years. At least one part of the much-splintered SPLA, led by Colonel John Garang, is trying to improve its image after widespread criticism from the West for human rights abuses. This may be mainly in the hope of regain-

ing credibility and winning support from Western countries as the north prepares to launch its annual dry-season offensive.

In Natinga, close to the Ugandan border, its guerrillas displayed prisoners of war, some captured six years ago, as proof that they had not executed all of them, as claimed by human rights groups.

"The rebels share what food they have with us. We eat well when they have food, and not so well when they suffer too," said Colonel Nazrudeen Hommud, a former government military commander.

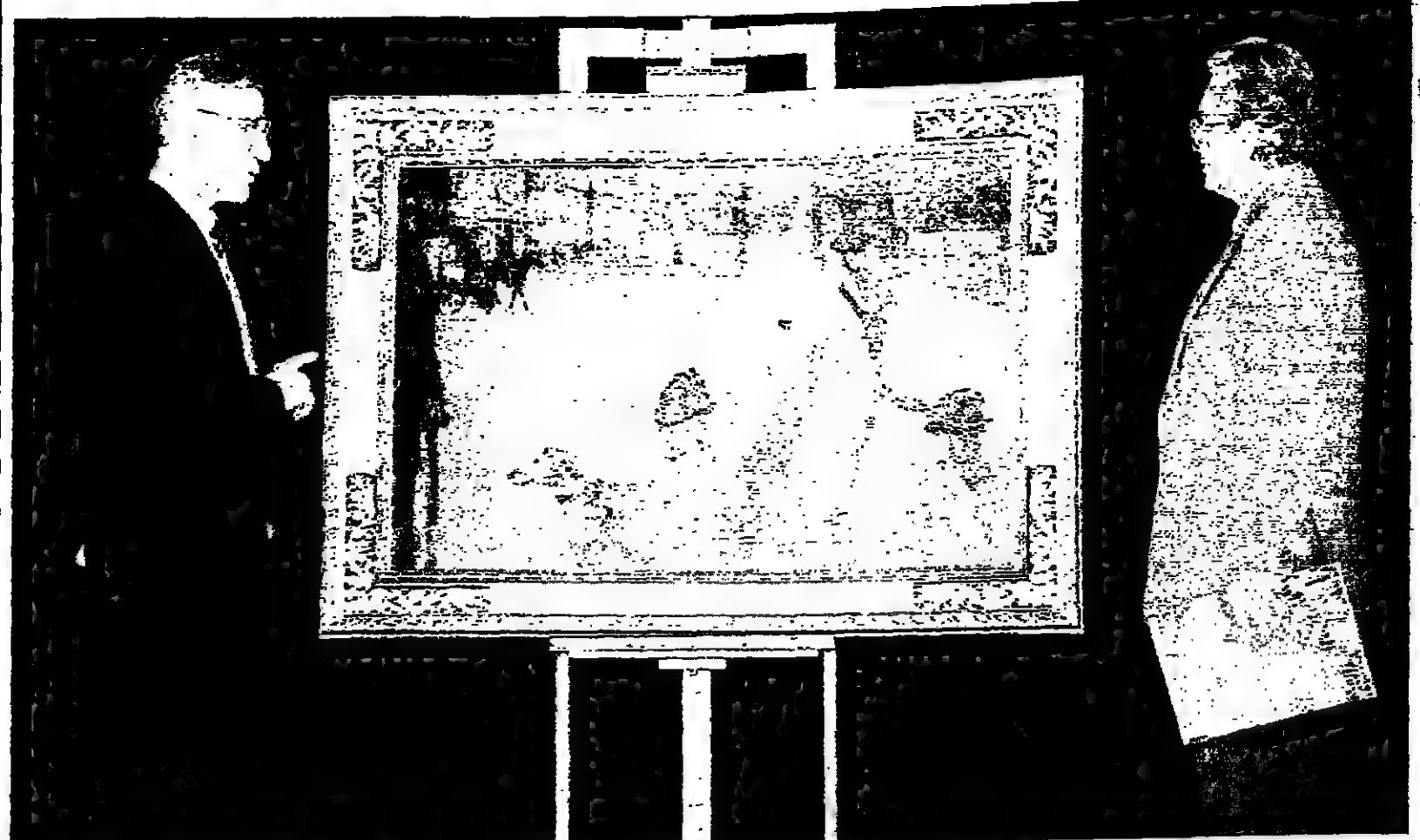
The West, including America and Britain, Sudan's former colonial master, has been slow to show support for the rebels because of their persistent factional fighting, and a disregard for the well-being of their supporters in the south. However, if the SPLA can improve its image, the West may yet view it as a bulwark against Khartoum's desire to spread Islam across the Horn of Africa into Uganda and Ethiopia.

The rebels from the SPLA mainstream, loyal to Colonel Garang, have suffered badly from splits among their leadership which started in 1991. Gordon Koang Banyipiny, who led the troops who kidnapped the aid workers in Upper Nile province, was once an SPLA officer and appears now to be operating as a freelance bandit.

Since 1991, Colonel Garang's followers have emerged as the only southern rebels who are not being supported by Khartoum. Most of his fighting has been against former members of his inner circle, who lead their own armies and operate as proxy divisions for the Khartoum Government. As a result, the SPLA has lost its grip on Upper Nile province and is fighting to keep hold of Eastern Equatoria.

Hermitage defiant over German claims to masterpieces

ALEXANDER DEMYANCHUK/REUTERS



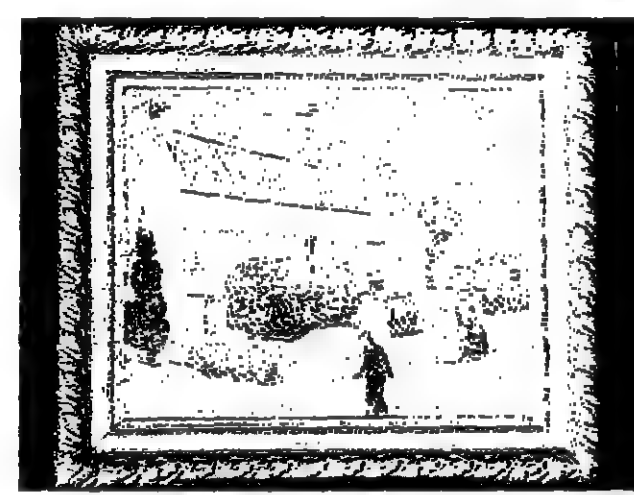
Albert Kostenovich, left, the Hermitage Museum's chief researcher, and Mikhail Piotrovsky, its director, admire Degas' *Place de la Concorde*. Below left is Van Gogh's *La Maison Blanche* and, right, Gauguin's *Piti Teina*. The three pictures go on show next month

Russia puts treasures on display

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN MOSCOW

THREE of the masterpieces from the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, whose priceless collection of 74 canvases was kept secret until last week, are to be put on display next month.

Visitors will be able to view Degas' *Place de la Concorde*, Van Gogh's *La Maison Blanche* and Gauguin's *Piti Teina*. The collection, which was seized by Red Army soldiers during the Second World War and brought back to Russia, was kept secret until the museum was given permission to open the "Hidden Treasures Revealed" exhibition. The works, which



include 15 Renoirs, four Van Goghs and a Picasso sketch, were taken from the private collections of three Berlin families in 1945.

Although the pictures have been claimed by the descendants of the original German owners, Mikhail Piotrovsky, the Hermitage Museum's director, said that until a



settlement had been agreed they were "not going anywhere".

The Russians claim that they seized art works in Germany as compensation for national treasures plundered by the invading Nazis, which included an entire 18th-century amber chamber in a St Petersburg palace.

Prisoner returns to his cell as President

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON MANDELA yesterday returned to Robben Island, where he spent 18 of his 27 years of imprisonment. This time he was accompanied by 1,300 admirers, former fellow prisoners and other political and civic dignitaries of the new South Africa.

A huge circus tent was pitched in the centre of the island for lunch, and the President, once the world's most famous political prisoner, reminded people that many of the island's former denizens were not at all well known. All the same, he said, they had helped to shape South Africa's history.

One of the more famous of his former colleagues, Govan Mbeki, a veteran Communist who was jailed with Mr

Mandela in the so-called Rivonia trial in 1964, and whose son Thabo is the President's first deputy and heir-apparent, welcomed the visitors, and pointed out that not everything was bad on the island: many illiterate prisoners had received academic and political education there.

For the island tourists there were visits to B-block, where Mr Mandela and the rest of the African National Congress high command were held. They also visited the beach where the prisoners had gathered seaweed, and were, according to the President's autobiography, were glad to be close to the sea with a view of Table Mountain and the possibility of varying their diet with seafood stew.

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Illustrious Chancellor's widow unnerves Social Democrats with rattle of Cold War skeletons

Brandt papers revive spy claims

A 48-YEAR-OLD German widow with a taste for mini-skirts has just resigned from the Social Democratic Party and has promptly become the chief talking point of the political class in Bonn. The furor is only partly explained by the fact that the woman, Brigitte Seebacher, was married to Willy Brandt, the late, great Social Democrat Chancellor.

Frau Seebacher, a formidable polemicist, is accusing her party of a serious espionage cover-up and is giving a warning that, if even half of the currently circulating spy stories are true, the whole history of *Ostpolitik* will have to be rewritten. Little wonder that there was not a wet eye in the

BONN FILE
by ROGER BOYES



house when she returned her party card. Nobody, least of all the Social Democrats, wants to be reminded of the rather murky dealings with East Germany and Moscow in the 1970s and 1980s.

Frau Seebacher was a shrewd party historian when she met Brandt. The former Chancellor was at the tail end of another marriage which had been wrecked in large part by his libidinous nature. Frau Seebacher, to the surprise of many, tamed Brandt. She cut back his alcohol intake

and his smoking, and put some order in to his chaotic working days.

She also controlled access to the former Chancellor, famously sending Mikhail Gorbachev packing when he rang on the entryphone to their small house in Unkel, near Bonn. As Brandt's cancer ate him up, Frau Seebacher nursed him and became the guardian of her husband's autobiographical notes.

One such note has caused the present scandal. After a conversation with Valentin Falin, one of Russia's best experts on Germany, Brandt returned home and wrote that "since 1975, Karl W. committed himself to working for the services over there". "W." was undoubtedly Karl Wienand, aide to Brandt's far-from-trusting Social Democrat colleague Herbert Wehner. Herr Wienand, in hospital with heart problems at the moment, is awaiting trial for alleged KGB activities. He denies that he was an agent.

Mr Falin also denies that he made such a specific accusation. But Frau Seebacher is in no doubt. She is sure, and has said

many times in public, that the man at the side of Herbert Wehner was an agent. The irony is complete since it was the crusty Herr Wehner who pushed Brandt to resign in 1974 because of the discovery of the East German spy, Günter Guillaume.

Frau Seebacher, a quiet-spoken woman, has been infected with some of her late husband's bitterness about the way he was levered out of power. Three Social Democrat politicians — Egon Bahr, who helped develop *Ostpolitik* with her husband, the Bavarian politician, Hans Joachim Vogel, and the current Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Johannes Rau — knew about the KGB suspicion, yet they did nothing. Frau Seebacher would like to know why.

She claims that she is doing more than fighting a campaign on behalf of her late husband. She has uncovered a secret dimension in the shaping of East-West relations that has yet to be fully registered in the history books. Bonn, East Berlin and Moscow were communicating with each other through a web of spy contacts that competed with, rather than complemented, normal diplomatic channels.



Seebacher: uncovered new dimension to Germany's *Ostpolitik*

Kinkel's guide to loving

KLAUS KINKEL, the German Foreign Minister who is worried that his Free Democratic Party will collapse again in local elections in Hesse next week, has been canvassing for the female vote.

It is difficult to imagine Douglas Hurd, his British counterpart, being quite so candid. His wife, Herr Kinkel said in a remarkable interview, was his first and only girlfriend and he would not be able to cope if she committed adultery.

"It would be unthinkable for my wife and I, and I would simply not be able to stomach it," he said. However, he had to concentrate hard to remember the last time that he told his wife that he loved her. It must have been, he said, after a longish pause, on New Year's Eve 1993. 94. We look forward to similar confessions from members of the British Cabinet.

UN grows to get smaller

The UN bureaucracy needs to be cut down to size. Almost everyone can agree with that. And a German seems the appropriate person to do the job since Bonn has become one of the largest (and most prompt) contributors to the United Nations budget. Some eyebrows, however, are being raised about the decision to choose Karl Paschke, a diplomat, for this delicate job. Not known for his modest lifestyle, Dr Paschke's first move has been to expand the UN cost-cutting staff by more than a third.

Russian proves hottest of loaves

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

IGOR KUSELTAN, a biologist, says he knows from experience that his bread helps make men more potent. He has tried it himself.

"It definitely helps. I cannot say that you feel a change immediately, but after ten or 11 days you feel the effect," the Russian said yesterday. "When a man's sexual energy starts to fade, a change in diet often helps."

The bread, baked to a recipe that includes wheat germ, low-fat milk powder, sugar and butter, was presented to journalists and Moscow shopowners. "We keep the germ of the grain in the bread," said Mr Kuseltan, 74, who looks 20 years younger. "The germ is rich in vitamin E, which increases sexual energy in human beings."

Mr Kuseltan said he first hit on the idea of special breads in 1972 when he was conducting research at Moscow's Academy of Medical Sciences. Female laboratory assistants noticed that mice and rats fed on a "full-ration diet", including wheat germ and powdered milk, had sleek fur and bright eyes, and some of the workers said they wanted to try the formula.

To help them, Mr Kuseltan developed a recipe for oat-wheat bread but, because of Soviet-era restrictions on private business, never started baking it. Twenty years later, the bread is being produced by Mr Kuseltan's company, Bioproduct. The firm now produces bread a tonne at a time — 4,000 loaves — and sells them in local shops for 1,000 roubles (20p) a 9oz loaf, more than twice the price of ordinary loaf.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poll call to African dictators

Paris: A United Nations conference yesterday urged unelected African leaders to go to the polls within two years and asked the international community to withhold aid from dictatorships.

The call came at the end of the meeting in Paris attended by about 500 people, including African government officials. A conference document said the continent had been responsible for "countless failures" since independence, but could rapidly recover if it united and built democracy. (Reuters)

Truce refused

Lima: President Fujimori of Peru rejected Ecuador's request for a truce for both sides to collect their dead from 15 days of fighting in their border dispute. He said it was a ploy to gain advantage. (Reuters)

Tomb claim

Cairo: An archaeologist has said she has found the entrance to Alexander the Great's burial chamber in an oasis, 450 miles west of Cairo. Digging has been delayed by underground water. (AFP)

Ex-MP held

Bangkok: A court has remanded in custody Thanong Siripreechapong, a former Thai MP, until an extradition hearing over a drug trafficking charge in the United States. (Reuters)

Off the wall

Paris: Three French towns have banned posters for *Disclosure*, the film about sexual harassment starring Michael Douglas and Demi Moore, because they were too sexually explicit. (Reuters)

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Is Clarke the only brave Tory?

The Chancellor was right: it would be folly to risk being left on the sidelines of Europe, writes the Leader of the Opposition

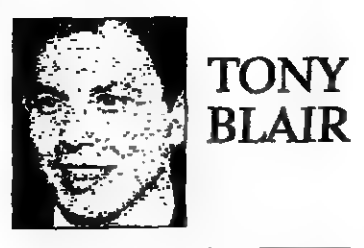
Kenneth Clarke's speech to the European Movement on Thursday night was a defining moment in this Parliament. It was billed as a speech that would glue together the two wings of a divided party. It was billed too, by the Prime Minister no less, as a speech that would lay out new criteria — over and above those in the Maastricht treaty — which would need to be met before Britain could consider joining a single currency.

It did neither of these things. The reaction of the Euro-sceptics has put paid to Mr Major's hopes that his Chancellor would paper over the cracks for a little while longer. Indeed, Michael Portillo's reaction suggests the gulf in the Cabinet has widened. The "new" conditions appeared to be convergence in the real economy in terms of growth and unemployment, a position close to Labour's.

Mr Clarke has had a good deal of predictable Euro-sceptic opprobrium poured over his head. He deserves credit, however, for having the courage to say what he thinks, and not to blow in the wind.

His stance may be at odds with much of the Conservative Party. He is right, however, in insisting that Britain must not risk becoming marginalised in Europe and that the single currency debate should concentrate on the serious economic and political arguments rather than factional infighting.

It is tempting for this whole



TONY BLAIR

debate to be seen as a Tory party pantomime, in which both the central characters and arguments have become caricatures. Kenneth Clarke's speech was inevitably part of that pantomime, as he would recognise, but it was also an attempt to make this a more serious debate, and should be welcomed for that.

Looked at from the narrow party political perspective, the current row may be a benefit to Labour. We ourselves know that the public are wary of divided parties. They do not trust them. If they sense that a party's leaders are more interested in holding that party together than they are in leading the country, that party will fall into disrepute.

It is true that there has been a shift in public mood on Europe. Each step towards closer European co-operation must be the subject of thought and persuasion. Political élites cannot take unquestioning popular support for granted. The ERM experience has left scars. To lock economies together in a single currency area, if there is significant

divergence in their underlying performance, would indeed risk instability and unemployment.

But I am clear about the direction in which I wish to lead the Labour Party. If convergence can be achieved, and if other countries go ahead with a single currency, it would be folly not to recognise the dangers of exclusion. In principle, if there is such real convergence, then clearly there could be benefits to our participation given the increasingly global nature of the economy in which we live. My guess — and it is only that — is that a single currency among any European countries is unlikely by 1997, possible by the end of the century and probable at some point in the not-too-distant future after that.

Of course, the final decision is not for now. But determining the principles that will govern that decision is, indeed, the institutions and procedures are being decided now. If Britain rules itself out of constructive engagement in that debate, it will find, as so many times in the history of our relations with Europe, that at some later stage we may want to join after others have determined the agenda and set the rules.

I am not in the least dewy-eyed either about Europe or about its institutions. There are serious challenges facing both. But I know this country's future lies in Europe, and I want us to lead in Europe and play a strong and decisive role in shaping its future.



In reality the debate in the Tory party is not simply about a single currency, it is about Britain and a vision of its future. That is why it is so fundamental. Their centre of gravity has shifted dangerously. How could they, if re-elected, ever represent Britain in Europe when the discussions on the introduction of single currency get fully under way? It would be a nightmare. Britain's foreign policy would effectively be paralysed. That is the fear written all over Kenneth Clarke's speech.

It was only two years ago that he was telling me across the floor of the House that my views on Europe were "indistinguishable" from his. Until recently, we thought we knew where the Foreign Secretary stood too. Now he declares himself to be an "agnostic", even on the question of whether there could be benefits in a single currency if real convergence existed. This indicates the dangers of sub-contracting foreign policy to the Euro-sceptic wing of the party whose programme, published a couple of weeks ago, would effectively mean British withdrawal from Europe.

In his heart, I believe the Prime Minister may be in the Clarke camp. Remember it was Mr Major who took us into the ERM and, less than two years ago, talked of Britain at the heart of Europe. But now he is the chief hostage in a guerrilla war within his party. His solution is to raise Aunt Sallies such as the risks of rampant Euro-federalism, or an imminent single currency, in an unconvincing attempt to appear tough in knocking them down. This is indicative of the sterile debate to which the Chancellor rightly objects. Britain deserves better. Mr Clarke was right to call for a sensible and open debate. It is one in which the Labour Party intends fully to participate.

Timothy Garton Ash on a fading memory from 1945

What is most remarkable about this anniversary is how far it has gone unremarked.

Every previous round anniversary of Yalta has seen a spate of articles, and invariably, controversy. On the tenth anniversary, James Cameron found Washington "grappling with a sort of new Crimean War" sparked off by the publication of the American records of the conference. The thirtieth anniversary brought dire warnings that the signature of the Helsinki Final Act would be a super-Yalta. The fortieth anniversary saw furious Soviet-American polemics, with the American columnist George F. Will denouncing "four decades of fraud".

It was not just the anniversaries. Every new crisis in Eastern Europe brought a new Yalta debate. When the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia to crush the Prague Spring in 1968, General de Gaulle blamed it on Yalta. When martial law was declared in Poland in 1981, Helmut Schmidt pointed to Yalta, while François Mitterrand declared that we must "sortir de Yalta". And every time the subject came up in Britain, Lord Gladwyn or Sir Frank Roberts wrote to *The Times* to explain how the British at Yalta had made the best of a bad job.

Yalta without end, it seemed. And now, at the half-century, nothing. Not even a letter to *The Times*. The reason is obvious: we no longer live in the Europe of Yalta. The east-west division of Europe which we knew in shorthand as Yalta softly and suddenly passed away, in the space of a single year, from autumn 1989 to autumn 1990. So Yalta has become history in a way that it was not for 45 years until the end of the Cold War.

The opening of the Soviet archives may reveal the chapter and verse of Uncle Joe's masterful duplicity. It will at last enable a history to be written based on the full documents of all the three participant powers. But I doubt if there will be any great revelations. Indeed, the history of the Yalta myths is now probably as interesting, perhaps even more so, than that of the actual conference.

There cannot, for example, be many international conferences which have been the subject of a

A lesson to learn from Yalta

musical. But in the early 1970s a musical entitled *Yalta Yalta* was staged in Zagreb. Its opening lines were "In February 1945 the leaders of the three great powers met at Yalta to divide the world."

This perfectly summarises the central Yalta myth: that endlessly potent image of the three old men carving up the world like a plum pudding. Historians have long since shown that the truth was — unsurprisingly — a great deal more complicated. Military and political decisions made earlier in the war were more important in determining the fate of central and Eastern Europe.

For Poland, the conference at Tehran in 1943 was probably more fateful. Indeed, Churchill did actually try at Yalta to make up some of the ground which had been explicitly or implicitly conceded before. In the section of the final communiqué devoted to Poland, the abandonment of the legitimate Government-in-exile in London and the effective recognition of the Communist provisional Government imposed by Moscow was hedged about with a convoluted formula about the "inclusion of democratic leaders from Poland itself and from Poles abroad". And the new Government was to be "pledged to the holding of free and unfettered elections as soon as possible on the basis of universal suffrage and secret ballot". The final communiqué also contained a grandiloquent Declaration on Liberated Europe, committing the three governments to help "liberated peoples" everywhere to create "democratic institutions of their own choice".

But did this make things better or worse? It is true that on the basis of

such passages some opposition leaders in Eastern Europe in the 1980s would call on Moscow not to abrogate but simply to implement the Yalta agreement. At the time, however, it gave what the Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski has well called an "ambiguous legitimacy" to the ruthless imposition of Soviet rule on Poland, and elsewhere. The Poles, and others, were not merely to have their hopes of independence and democratic self-government dashed; they were to have them dashed in the name of independence and self-government. This made it worse.

In the interests of keeping together the wartime alliance, reaching agreement on an orderly occupation of Germany, bringing the Soviet Union into the war against Japan and into the new United Nations, of which Roosevelt had such high hopes, the West papered over the cracks with words too important to be used for such a purpose — independence, freedom, democracy — and thus became an accessory to the crime. As so often, Churchill found the best phrase. Writing to Roosevelt less than a month later, he observed that if the liquidations and deportations and "all the rest of the game of setting up a totalitarian regime" in Poland continued, then "it will soon be seen by the world that you and I by putting our signatures to the Crimean settlement have under-written a fraudulent prospectus".

Here, I think, is a lesson of Yalta that outlasts the Cold War. There will continue to be times and regions in which the major powers of the West are not able or not willing to prevent the imposition of dictatorship by force and fraud, the expulsion of ethnic minorities, the new partitioning of territories. Back in the heady days of 1990 we fondly hoped that this might no longer be the case inside Europe itself. What has happened in the former Yugoslavia has quickly proved that hope to be vain. But at least, at the very least, we should not again allow ourselves to give the appearance of legitimacy, even an ambiguous legitimacy, to the triumph of force and fraud. No *Yalta Yalta* should not be revived in Zagreb nor in Belgrade, and least of all in Sarajevo.

Teresa Gorman and Sir Sandy Wilson, though foolish, deserve some sympathy

It's been a wonderful week for the property columns. "Bijou converted Tudoresque manor in upworldly Essex. Would suit whipless Tory lady MP hounded by hostile Labour council. Taste for pewter mugs, fake beams and inglenooks an advantage." Or perhaps you would prefer a Gloucestershire property, within lens-and-bugging range of royalty. "Edwardian neo-Queen Anne in style, with extensive stabling and grounds. Ideal for ambitious Air Chief Marshal with scrambled egg on his chest and a weakness for pelicans."

Few sights are so gratifying as that of the great and good on banana skins. Teresa Gorman and Sir Sandy Wilson are humble servants of yours truly. They have drawn the taxpayers' shilling, tossed it in the air and found it has landed on both sides. When rumoured, they adopt a look of pained innocence and cry scapegoat and foul. The Gormans face legal action and even prison for altering their historic house without permission. Sir Sandy, heir to the tradition of Bader and Cheshire, was yesterday shot down for extravagance. His plane cartwheeled into the drink, spewing Axminster and chintz.

Why do they do it? Sir Sandy and his wife clearly thought they had struck gold. The RAF's Haynes Garth mansion had Air Chief Marshal written all over it. The roof and ground floor needed renovation. Mr Rifkind offered £380,000 for the job, with £60,000 for curtains, carpets and "window treatments". The MoD's cost-watchers passed this as state-of-the-art. vital for the punishing hospitality missions flown by the modern airman. As Sir Sandy's mentor, Captain Yossarian, would have pointed out, you would have to be mad to fly such missions and not take a free house and £380,000 into the bargain. He forgot Yossarian's Catch-22. Taking them would equally be seen as a sign of madness — if it got out.

I have some sympathy for Sir Sandy. The system he was using is rotten to the core. The public sector is currently incapable of setting anything that would pass for a standard of behaviour to the rest of the nation. MPs last year gave themselves a pay rise of double the inflation rate. When accused of

The Catch-22 of home improvement

taking bribes, they laughed it off. On Thursday top civil servants stunned all-comers by taking a leaf from the gas and electricity executives' book. They demanded and gracefully granted themselves something called "performance-related" rises of up to 27 per cent. The phrase "performance-related" of the pay of a Whitehall official is wholly meaningless. Civil servants merely want what the utilities executives have got. They know to take their moment when a Prime Minister is nervous and a Chancellor does not care how much embarrassment he causes the Government. Nobody on earth has the power to stop them.

Those in Sir Sandy Wilson's position are less lucky. His grade of officer was this week awarded just 3.2 per cent (junior ranks must perform equally well on 2.6 per cent). Meanwhile their perks are spread all over the public press. They might be less noticeable were it not for the services' incessant whingeing that they are short of cash. Destroyers are putting to sea with dummy torpedoes. Training flights are cancelled for lack of fuel. Yet ministers have had to defend personal cooks for 100 senior officers, fundering expeditions for cavalrymen, a corps of gardeners, valets and drivers to service 77 luxury officers' homes.

Ministers cannot pretend they know nothing of this systematic perk abuse, which Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, is too weak-kneed to end. All he can do is wait for *The Daily Telegraph* to publish details, leak that he is

ing fines, demolition, even imprisonment.

Like Sir Sandy, Mrs Gorman finds herself in the grip of a system not of her making. On all sides, racketeers are wrecking historic buildings without planning permission. Meanwhile honest citizens seeking to rehabilitate the nation's heritage are subject to trivial interference. The Gormans acquired a dump and have made it a handsome home. They inserted "authentic" medieval features, including mullioned windows, fake beams and inglenooks. The Bard himself would feel at home in the place. If officialdom is to quibble over every stick of wood or patch of mortar, old buildings will simply fall down and Britain become a land of Wats-built semis.

Here too I have sympathy with the victim. There is a maddening pendency about planning control, including over the interiors and materials of historic buildings. To see planners fussing over a detail of an old house, while its setting is ruined by a hideous petrol station or villa estate next door is bound to enrage the hard-pressed homeowner. Modern development control sometimes cannot see the wood for the trees — which is not to say it should abandon the trees.

But this defence is not open to Mrs Gorman. She said that she and her husband had been "too busy" to seek planning permission. What sort of excuse is that? Parliament decrees listed building control. Mrs Gorman is a Member of Parliament. She could have argued her alterations with the planners, and gone to appeal if she disagreed with their verdict. When MPs disregard the law, they set a bad example for those wrestling to enforce it, not to mention those who decide to obey it. That mighty inquisition of public taste, Thurrock District Council, must clearly do its duty and force the Gormans to make changes, if only as a warning to others.

The most fitting comment on this ludicrous week would be Mrs Gorman to throw a lifeline to Sir Sandy. He is out of work, and clearly a dab hand at interior design. If the councillors of Thurrock are not keen on Gormanian neo-Tudor, perhaps they could be seduced by Wilsonian neo-Queen Anne. It will not come cheap.



Simon Jenkins

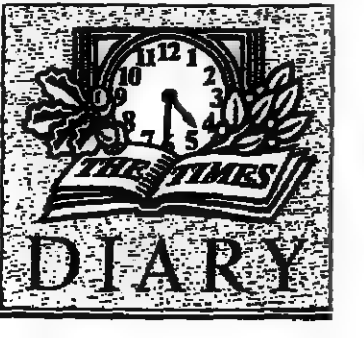
Byter bit

A POLITICAL student gossiping on the Internet has fallen foul of Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary. He made defamatory comments about the minister and a Cabinet colleague while talking to fellow computer buffs on the worldwide computer network.

Someone, on some computer somewhere, was monitoring the "conversation" and the unfortunate chap is in hot water. A libel action would make legal history.

A stiff letter from Lilley's office has landed on the desk of Professor Alan Watson, Vice Chancellor of Leeds University. "They were not pleased," says a university spokeswoman. "They wanted to point out that people should not use the Internet for this kind of thing and could be subject to libel."

The university traced the student who had sent his comments into



"cyberspace" from a computer terminal at the university. A retraction of his comments was hastily sent out on the Internet along with an apology to the ministers concerned.

Lilley's office refused to comment yesterday but libel laws surrounding the Internet are vague. There is, as yet, no case history in this country but, with hundreds of

thousands of users joining each month and 40 million users worldwide, a deluge of actions is expected.

Golden age

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL Sir Sandy Wilson resigned yesterday after the improvement bill for his home came to £380,000. He would still be at his desk if he had lived in another age: there wasn't any penny-pinching among top brass in Victorian times.

Dr Andrew Lambert, a lecturer in war studies at the University of London, says well-off military leaders were generally able to kit out their troops themselves. "One naval First Lieutenant owned his ship, HMS *Albion*, with gold leaf and silver in 1843. The vessel became known as the *Gilded Toy Ship*. Perfect for peaceful Mediterranean cruises in the early 1840s, the tub was useless for warfare. It was stripped of all its decorations before joining the bombardment of

Sebastopol during the Crimean War.

● The canine world should brace itself for the latest invention for travelling pets: seat belts for dogs. Hi-Craft, the Liverpool-based manufacturer of the extendable dog lead, has invented harnesses to strap the beasts into the back seat.



"We're big in ferret harnesses too," says Andy Irving, the managing director.

Rocky meeting

ANDREW Neil comes in for a taste of his own interrogative medicine on Channel Four's *Right To Reply* this weekend. Viewers objected to the grilling he gave sports personality Fatima Whitbread recently on his chat show *Is This Your Life?*

Neil will be asked to justify himself by a couple of viewers and the programme's host, Roger Bolton. Could this be the Roger Bolton who was responsible for *Death on the Rock*, the television documentary about the SAS killings in Gibraltar which Neil relentlessly undermined in *The Sunday Times*?

Euro-silence

LIVELY behaviour can be expected once again from the Young Conservatives, gathering in Southport for

their annual conference this weekend. Subjects to be debated include heritage, the constitution and even licensing laws. But Europe is out.

Despite denials from the Young Conservatives' spokesmen, some suspect that Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman, was threatening to boycott proceedings if Europe was on the agenda.

Hanley will be present with other government representatives such as Michael Howard. It will be left to Neil Hamilton, the former minister, who is chairing the conference, and to Lord Tebbit to fly the Euro-sceptic flag.

Match making

IAIN SPROAT, the Sports Minister, is to be given lessons in belittling opponents, escaping from tight corners and avoiding own goals. On Monday he is to be visited by his Brazilian opposite number Edson Arantes do Nascimento — otherwise known as Pelé. The world's greatest footballer



Pelé: political goal-seeker

took up the job of Sports Minister in Brazil last month and is on a European tour. In the light of recent domestic events the two should have plenty to talk about. "There's no agenda, they'll just kick a few ideas about," says a spokesman.



THE NEW LEVELLERS

If Major is wrong, the Rowntree report is even more wrong

John Major should have reflected more carefully in Parliament on Thursday when Tony Blair asked him whether reducing inequality was one of the objectives of his Government. The Prime Minister snapped back with a one-word answer: "yes". But if reducing inequality, as an end in itself, were really to be accepted as a major goal of Government, the Tories' record since 1979 would have to be judged a dismal failure.

Labour's attacks were inspired by a report this week from the Joseph Rowntree Trust. Among its more controversial and highly publicised claims was one that "income inequality has grown further and faster in Britain than in any comparable industrial country". Another was that the poorest third of the population had not benefited from rising national prosperity since 1979. Neither of these charges, however, need give Mr Major much of a problem.

The first statement is unsubstantiated, since the study looked at very different periods in comparing changes in incomes in different countries. The claim that inequality in Britain has gone "further" than elsewhere is even more dubious. Although none of the statistics are truly comparable, the latest suggest that Britain is much less unequal than the US and Canada and roughly on a par with Italy and France.

The more sensational claim — that up to 30 per cent of the population, has "failed to benefit from economic growth since 1979" — is simply untrue, even on Rowntree's own statistics. What the report actually shows is that the poorest 10 per cent of the people had about the same cash income after tax, benefits and inflation in 1992 as in 1979. The next 20 per cent enjoyed real gains of between 5 and 10 per cent. Only by deducting housing costs are the figures massaged to reveal that the bottom ten per cent had less disposable income in 1992 than in 1979, while the next 10 per cent stood still. And even after this manipulation, there are gains, albeit small ones, for the next 10 per cent slice of the income distribution.

But for Mr Major, quibbling about statistics is unlikely to blunt the underlying

message from Labour. For even if it is false that the poor have got absolutely poorer, or that Britain is more unequal than other countries, Britain has certainly become more unequal than it was. The question for Mr Major is whether he should now promise to "do something" about inequality. Or should he, instead, try reminding Britain that inequality is no vice, provided poverty remains within civilised limits?

To do the latter, he must establish first, that inequality in Britain does remain within tolerable bounds; international comparisons suggest that it does. Secondly, he must point out that the main increase in inequality occurred in the mid-1980s, and started from a point where incomes had been artificially levelled for decades by incomes policies and trade union bullying. Since 1989, there has been little further change in income distribution. Thirdly, and most importantly, he must devise better policies to deal with extreme poverty — not by trying to level society, but by improving the opportunities for employment, removing work disincentives and trying to discourage the formation of one-parent families whose children account for a high proportion of the "new poor".

For the Tories, these are daunting challenges. But there are dangers for Labour, too, in the inequality debate. Gordon Brown pounced gleefully yesterday on the Rowntree report, adding another twist of over-statement to its already exaggerated conclusions: "middle and low-income Britain are worse off" under the Tories, he declared. When the time comes for the next general election, middle-income Britain will examine history more carefully than the Rowntree researchers. They will find that they have become substantially better off since 1979. If Mr Brown keeps denying this, and telling the middle class it has suffered the same impoverishment as the bottom 10 per cent, voters may conclude that Labour still lives in a socialist cocoon, detached from the middle-class world. Labour naturally wants to be the party of compassion, but it cannot afford to be seen merely as the party of the underclass.

INSULT TO ISLAM

Pakistan would shame its own religion by executing Christians

The sentencing of a 14-year-old boy to death in Pakistan for blasphemy is an abhorrent violation of human rights. It has, predictably and rightly, raised a storm of protest. Amnesty International considers Salamat Masih and his 40-year-old co-defendant — also due to be executed — prisoners of conscience, and believes the charges were maliciously brought and unfairly judged: the boy, it notes, was reported to have been illiterate at the time of his alleged writing of graffiti insulting the Prophet Muhammad. Human rights organisations in Pakistan are already speaking of a new intolerance that threatens all religious minorities; Western opinion will be reinforced in its conviction that fundamentalist Islam now represents a great challenge to Western interests.

The reaction was known to Pakistan's judges and politicians even before sentence was passed. Yet they did nothing to discourage the fanatics who intimidated the defence lawyers and nothing to dispel the impression that they acquiesced in judicial outrage to demonstrate their Islamic credentials. As civil order breaks down, tribal divisions deepen, drugs and crime take hold in the cities and a population explosion threatens to overwhelm economic progress, Islam has become the one card that all can play where other answers elude them.

The political exploitation of religion is a potent temptation in a state whose very existence is based on its religious identity. Since the rule of Zia ul-Haq and the introduction of *sharia* law the means to do so has been increased. The blasphemy laws which mandate the death penalty and can be enforced on the word of a single witness is

made for abuse. Until now they have been used against heretical Muslim sects; the extension to Pakistan's 2.5 million Christians is a sign that weakened state institutions are now targeting all non-Muslims.

To see fundamentalism as the preserve of the mullahs, the illiterate and the obscurantists is to misread its influence. All Pakistani politicians, motivated as much by personal ambition as ideological conviction, have pandered to its strictures; all have indulged in *pro forma* denunciations of Western secularism; yet all know that with a divided clergy, fundamentalism cannot, in fact, threaten their power as it has in Algeria and elsewhere in North Africa. Benazir Bhutto, for all her Western education and secular background, has to make concessions to Islamic populism and never more so than at the present time, when things are going badly in Kashmir, Karachi is terrorised by rival gangs and ethnic tensions are rising.

This may explain, but does not excuse, the disproportionate savagery of the sentence against Salamat Masih. The Government and judicial authorities may be hoping to have it both ways — appeasing the masses by passing a death sentence, and then appeasing the international community by commuting it as a gesture of clemency. It would be a miscalculation. Even if, as seems likely, the boy's appeal succeeds the damage to Pakistan's image abroad has been done. Enough has been heard recently of the persecution of Christians in Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries to rouse atavistic Western antagonism to Islam. Pakistan has, by its action, fuelled these dangerous new divisions.

ALEXANDER FOR EVERYMAN

All still talk of the great man, even if they cannot find him

The adventures of Alexander the Great are the longest-running romance in show business. The latest excitement came from a Greek archaeologist who claimed to have found the great man's burial place with the aid of mystical guidance from snakes. Sad to aid of mystical guidance from snakes. Sad to aid of mystical guidance from snakes. Sad to aid of mystical guidance from snakes.

Before he died at Babylon in his 33rd year, Alexander left two credibly reported messages for posterity. When asked to whom he left his kingdom of the known world, he replied "to the strongest". He added that his prominent friends would stage a vast funeral contest in his honour, in imitation of his Homeric hero, Achilles.

Alexander's funeral contest has been going on ever since, though many years were to pass before the strongest could be seen to have emerged. There is in fact no mystery about the terminus of Alexander's quest. Propaganda destined it for Macedonia or Shiva, the home of the oracle of his supposed father, Zeus. But the coffin was snatched by his general, Ptolemy, as a trophy to justify his independent control of Egypt. Ptolemy displayed it in Alexandria where it was last visited by the Roman emperor, Caracalla, and disappeared in the

riots of the third century AD. The romance of Alexander has proved more adaptable than that of any other mortal, except perhaps for those of the founders of great religions.

He is a multipurpose legend to which each generation can still attach its contemporary interests. His adventures are told in the Koran, and he appears as an anachronistic Christian in carvings in English cathedrals. The Hebrew tradition saw him as a prophet, the Indians as a magnanimous conqueror, the Persians as alternately a true king and a Satan. Ancient Greeks read him as a Hitler. Until the emergence of Macedonia as a rival state and the discovery of his father's tomb at Vergina, modern Greeks looked down on Alexander as a barbarian.

Any party or race can discover whatever it wants in the romance of Alexander. Egalitarians can claim him as one of them for pouring away a helmet full of water because there was not enough in it for his army of 10,000. Elitists can identify with his treatment of eastern princesses and Indian kings. The recent excitement over his burial place shows that the magic of Alexander still lives, and that our current obsession is with buried treasure and ancient roots. Even though he died 23 centuries ago and was probably Macedonian not divine, Alexander is still the best hero to have on one's side.

Prime Minister's Irish options

From Mr J. M. Maybin

Sir, You rightly pointed out, in your leading article of February 2, "The prospect of peace" [see also letters, February 3, 4, 6, 8], both that there has been no denial from London or Dublin on the substance of the leaked draft and that the assertion from Downing Street that the new Northern Ireland body would depend upon an elected Northern Ireland assembly for its authority was possibly issued only as a result of publication of the extracts.

Unionists are distrustful of the Government, and with reason. John Major has climbed down three times. He first refused Sinn Féin's demand for "clarification" of the Downing Street declaration, and then capitulated.

He indicated that Sinn Féin would not be admitted to negotiations until there was a permanent end to violence, and then made a "working assumption" which allowed him off the hook.

He demanded a "decommissioning" of arms and explosives before substantive negotiations could include Sinn Féin, and then neatly transferred the responsibility for "intransigence" on this issue to the Unionists.

There is a distinction between "peace" and "the peace process". While the process may be thrown into some confusion by the disclosure in *The Times*, peace will not. The process is one of horse-trading between Dublin/Sinn Féin/SDLP and the British Government, aimed at giving sufficient concessions to nationalists to prevent the IRA from resuming its murder campaign, but not so many as to cause the loyalists to resume theirs.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. MAYBIN,
11 Perry Park,
Bangor, Co Down.

From Dr Edward Smyth

Sir, I listened with regret to the Prime Minister's ministerial broadcast on February 2, following your publication of sections of the framework document. He gave Unionists reassurances that three locks were in place: the views of local politicians, the people of Northern Ireland, and Parliament. The familiar response to this from Unionist politicians was to veto all attempts at progress and political mediation.

I observe now among the traditionally Unionist Protestant community (from which I come) increasing frustration with this rhetoric, yet at the same time a growing optimism. It appears to me that the politicians, sensing these frustrations and hopes in their own community, may be becoming afraid of the moderation of their people and hence the outcome of a referendum.

They are right to be frightened. The large majority of moderate Unionist and nationalist people would support the essential ingredients hinted at in the partly revealed framework document, increasing cross-border co-operation with safeguards.

If the Prime Minister calls his bluff I believe that he will be pleasantly surprised.

Yours hopefully,
EDWARD SMYTH,
71 Grovehill Gardens,
Bangor, Co Down.
February 10.

From Sir Neil Pritchard

Sir, The peace process involves a complex of serious and strong interests and emotions which stack up on all sides. The effort to achieve progress involves a network of delicate, anxious and complicated negotiations.

Nobody, not even you, would suggest that such negotiations can all be conducted in public. Equally nobody has suggested that the negotiations can be completed without moving to full public discussion.

What you have done, however, by printing extracts from the draft of the proposed framework, is to take it up on yourself to decide at what stage in the process the negotiations should become public.

That is why I regard your action as arrogant, and irresponsible; and your self-justification (leading article, February 2) as inadequate.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL PRITCHARD,
Little Garth,
Daglingworth,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
February 9.

From Sir Charles Pickthorn

Sir, Our fellow subjects of the Crown in Ulster have been assured that they will not be asked to submit to an all-Ireland body with executive powers. It now appears that they will only be asked to agree to "a powerful new North-South authority over Ulster with powers to deal directly with Brussels".

Obviously there is an enormous difference between an "all-Ireland body" and a "North-South authority". I look forward to Mr Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew explaining this.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES PICKTHORN,
Manor House, Nunmy,
Nr Frome, Somerset.
February 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hitting back at 'rude' interviewers

From Professor Emeritus Leslie Collier

Sir, I welcome John Birt's criticism of the standards of broadcast interviews (article, February 4). Certain news presenters constantly interrupt answers to the questions they put. I get the impression that they are less interested in what their victim is saying than in firing off every question on their list before the end of the allotted time. This often leads to the unedifying and distracting spectacle of two people, one of whom may be quite eminent, trying as hard as they can to talk each other down. Cannot interviewers, when necessary, forgo at least part of their scripts in the interest of getting intelligible responses?

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE COLLIER,
8 Peto Place, Regent's Park, NW1.
February 4.

From Mr D. J. Bridle

Sir, If only Brenda Maddox's comments ("Rude? Include us out, Mr Birt", Media and Marketing, February 8) were true, and journalists had only "one voice, which counts for no more than one", and that others were "free to do the same".

Her piece will have been read by, perhaps, a million readers of *The Times*. Most who disagree with her will not have the same means of having their views considered. I am more convinced by John Birt's argument.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. BRIDLE,
9 Yeomans Orchard,
Wrighton, Bristol, Avon.

Becket's bones

From Dr Michael Stratton

Sir, Readers may be glad to know that the exact whereabouts of the bones of St Thomas of Canterbury are not "known only to a small and determined group of the faithful", as your report alleges ("Search for a saint", February 2). A few have been treasured in a reliquary in the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome since before the Reformation.

The reliquary is a large one. It contains portions of St Thomas's shin, collar and arm bones, and a portion of the skull. A piece of hair-shirt he was wearing at his martyrdom, and a shirt soaked in the blood are included. Monsignor Canon Dilwyn Lewis, chamberlain and vicar capitular of the basilica, presided over a renewed canonical authentication of the reliquary in 1992.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL STRATTON,
Culver Farm,
Old Compton Lane,
Farnham, Surrey.
February 2.

National Lottery

From Mr David Liddiment

Sir, To date, not one penny has been allocated, let alone spent, of the £161,603,000 of National Lottery takings that has been set aside for good causes. In the spirit of your leading article (January 28), it is precisely because the BBC wishes to show that the lottery will "enhance our national life" that we have incorporated a feature designed to illustrate local charitable activities into every single programme to date.

Last Saturday an estimated 14 million viewers watched the duration of the show, with some 17 million tuning in for the draw itself: a considerably higher figure than your estimate of 10 million and considerably more than the number who chose to remain watching TV.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LIDDIMENT
(Head of Entertainment Group,
BBC Network Television),
BBC Television Centre,
Wood Lane, W12.
February 6.

From Mr Steve Ashworth

Sir, With regard to lottery odds (letter, February 4), I recently wrote a computer program that randomly selected

From Mr Brian R. Battersby

Sir, A framed copy of Mr John Birt's most valuable article on the role of journalists and broadcasters should hang on the wall of every radio and television studio, and should stand on the desk of every journalist.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN R. BATTERSBY,
Longdale House,
Wincle, Macclesfield, Cheshire.
February 4.

From Mr Julian Dare

Sir, In the present dispute about the modern media the necessary distinction should be made between destructive criticism which rapidly degenerates into becoming an end in itself, and constructive criticism which is a means to an end beyond itself, namely "the common good".

The contemporary parade of petty ego-trippers on our television screens and airwaves and in the pages of our press is both boring and pernicious.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN DARE,
26 Russell Court,
St Margaret's Road, Oxford.
February 4.

From Wing Commander R. Dauncey

Sir, John Birt says "the remedies are in our own hands" — surely they are in his!

Yours faithfully,
R. DAUNCEY,
34 Main Road, Naphill,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.
February 6.

From the Reverend Mark T. Elvins

Sir, Bones of Thomas Becket have rested at Canterbury since at least 1953, when Prior Thomas Becket, O.S.B. of Chevetogne, a collateral descendant of St Thomas, presented St Thomas's Catholic Church at Northgate, Canterbury, with a finger bone of the martyr that may have come originally from the royal collection in France. In the following year a relic of St Thomas's vestment and a piece of bone were given to the same church by Mary Hales of Hales Place, and I have myself recently given the church a small relic of bone.

All these relics, which seem to have come from France and Italy, may be remnants of those given to Pandulf, the Papal Legate, and William, Archbishop of Rheims, who came to Canterbury in 1220 to witness the translation of Becket's remains to the magnificent new shrine behind the old high altar.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
MARK T. ELVINS,
c/o The Priests' House, Tanyard,
Church Lane, Henfield, West Sussex.
February 2.

six different numbers from a range of one to 49, arranged them in ascending numerical order and compared them with six random numbers of my choice, again of ascending numerical order. Working on the assumption of one lottery draw per week, my machine runs at the rate of 600 years of draws per hour. After three hours of operation it did not match my selection of numbers.

Furthermore, a friend of mine ran this program overnight on his much faster machine, still without a match of numbers. It seems that becoming a millionaire in virtual reality is just as difficult as in the real world.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE ASHWORTH,
Flat 4, 42 Leicester Square, WC2.
February 5.

From Mr W. Wilkinson

Sir, *The Times* has merely followed Camelot in surrendering to Americanisation (letter, February 7).

My two-week entry in the "National" Lottery shows that it is for "Sat 04 Feb thru Sat 11 Feb 95".

Yours faithfully,
W. WILKINSON,
2 Linnet Court, Westfield,
Ashington, Northumberland.
February 7.

On the buses

From Mr T. H. Hughes-Davies

Sir, I hope your headline, "From battalions to buses" (February 4), does not mislead Chief Petty Officer Price. If he stays in Portsmouth, he will find that Hampshire pensioners pay their own fares.

Yours sincerely,
T. H. HUGHES-DAVIES,
Slade's Cottage, Breamore,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

Vox pop

From Dr Carol Cooper

Sir, Patients turning up at fracture clinics often find their notes ominously stamped with the order "POP OFF ON ARRIVAL" (Colonel Maggee's letter, February 8). Fortunately this means only that their plaster of Paris is to be removed before they see the doctor.

Yours faithfully,
CAROL COOPER,
33 Berks Hill,
Cherleywood, Hertfordshire.
February 9.

Hurd and the Dutch

From the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of The Netherlands

Sir, Writing on February 7, your European Editor, George Brock, refers to my visit to Foreign Secretary Hurd on January 26 ("Pressure grows on Britain to resolve discord on Europe").

Mr Brock quotes unspecified Dutch sources as telling him that I was "appalled" by my talks with Mr Hurd and by his generally negative attitude. I want to state that this is not only totally unfounded, but complete and utter nonsense. I found my talks with Secretary Hurd, which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, extremely informative and constructive, as I emphasised in my press conference afterwards.

Yours etc,
HANS VAN MIERLO,
Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken,
Beuzenhoudseweg 67,
Postbus 20061,
2500 EB The Hague,
The Netherlands.
February 9.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

On Hogarth and Lord Burlington

From Dame Gillian Wagner

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("The pug and the dilettante", February 4) mentions William Hogarth's gift to St Bartholomew's Hospital, but not his far more significant gifts to the Foundling Hospital, of which the artist was a founder governor.

In 1740 Hogarth presented the Foundling Hospital with his greatest portrait, that of its founder, Thomas Coram, and later gave it *The March of the Guards to Finchley* and *Moses before Pharaoh's Daughter*. He also persuaded other famous artists to contribute to the decoration of the hospital, including Alan Ramsay, Charles Brooking, Gainsborough, Reynolds and Wilson. Rysbrach and Roubiliac made contributions and Handel (another founder governor) used his music to raise funds for the charity.

By encouraging artists to work for the alleviation of poverty, Hogarth gave a high moral value and brought a new seriousness to art. The collection that he inspired is still complete and in being here, on the original site of the Foundling Hospital.

Yours sincerely,
GILLIAN WAGNER (Chairman),
Thomas Coram Foundation
for Children,
40 Brunswick Square, WC1.
February 4.

From Mr John Harris

Sir, As the organiser of the exhibition at Burlington House, I was delighted by Simon Jenkins's Hogarthian tilt. I feel obliged to point out, however, that the intention of the exhibition was to display for the first time all the visual records of Chiswick — rather than the life and times of Lord Burlington.

I could also wish that Mr Jenkins's tilt had been delivered more accurately. The implication that Burlington's parterres were extending when Hogarth bought the house in 1749 is false: Burlington had stopped gardening by 1740 and had given up any pretension to architecture.

If Burlington's Grand Tour in 1714-15 is remarkable for anything, it is a complete lack of interest in Italian architecture rather than the "obsession" with it alluded to by Mr Jenkins. He did not bring back "Signior" William Kent from Rome until his more serious visit to Italy in 1719.

I, too, would have appreciated the presence of Hogarth and his good dog Trump at the opening of the exhibition. However, the compensation was surely the witty and earthy Kent, who in no way could be described as an "effete" Burlingtonian. Hogarth and Kent had more in common than either painter would have cared to admit. I have no doubt that, from their shared earth in Chiswick churchyard, they are enjoying this exchange.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARRIS,
16 Limerston Street, SW10.
February 8.

Beaks in Brussels

From Sir John Weston, British Ambassador to Nato

Sir, Readers who think Brussels dull may like to know of the increasing prevalence of the ring-necked parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) (also known as the rose-ringed parakeet) in the wild around the capital of Europe. This striking bird, some 16 in long, emerald green and yellow with a scarlet beak and pink and black collar, originated from India in the Sixties but breeds prolifically in these climes and is giving the local magpies a run for their money.

Parakeets feed boldly in my garden. They also make a pretty sight when flying in formation. Last autumn I saw a whole squadron, like miniature Tornado aircraft banking steeply in the evening sunlight, while *The Royal Green Jackets* (appropriately) were beating the retreat below at Nato headquarters.

On a recent weekend run round Richmond Park, I scored four sightings of the ring-necked parakeet within the hour. Clearly they are good Europeans, and the Channel is no obstacle.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WESTON,
United Kingdom Delegation to Nato,
Autowrite Bruxelles,
Zaventem, Evère, 1110 Brussels.

Aged in the pot

From Mrs Maureen Nyazai

Sir, Apparently Joanna Lumley, aged 48, is judged "too old" to advertise Müller yoghurt (report, February 3). Am I, therefore, at the same age, to be judged "too old" to eat it?

Yours sincerely,
MAUREEN NYAZAI,
Tile House,
Grosvenor Road, Godalming, Surrey.

A tangled web

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, Your report, "Gym photos deal keeps Princess out of court" (February 9), refers to "a sticking point, which had been the fly in the ointment on previous occasions".

Was it not the ointment that was the sticking point (at least for the fly)?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
House of Lords.

A. L. WARR

namously by the Religious Tract and Temperance Society, and the pages of the *Leisure Hour*, and the success of this tale, which dealt with the subject of the influence of the press, so excited the ire of some of the members of the society, that they gathered at a crowd assembled outside the office of the society and threatened to break down the windows unless the name of the author was given up. But from the humblest of the members of the society, Mrs. Wood was constantly viewed with reverences of the widespread of her works. One of her stories, "The Home-land," was the property of the Temperance Society. Mrs. Wood's story was also at work for a time in the identity of "Johnny Ludlow" and "The Poor Man's Boy." After the death of her husband Mrs. Wood returned to England, and for a time she resided in the midst of her friends in St. John's-wood. Her occupations have been a threefold one, which is yet to appear, and "Johnny Ludlow." She leaves a son and a daughter. Mrs. Wood had delicate health for some months, but at last weakness was of a time for the natural energy of disposition activity.

Names' court win opens way to £80m payment

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London names won a new courtroom victory yesterday, when a judge ruled that the agents who invested their money during the 1980s had acted negligently. The ruling clears the way for a payment of up to £80 million.

Some 378 names had been fighting for 4½ years to recoup big losses on asbestos claims dating back before 1975. Their success follows last year's historic Gooda Walker victory in the High Court, which cleared the way for the payment of up to £504 million in damages.

Members of the Syndicate 334 (1985) Names Association had been suing their agents over losses arising in the 1985 underwriting year. They claimed damages for breach of contract and negligence against their members' agents, and negligence against Pulbrook Underwriting Management, the managing agents who selected the risk to be underwritten.

The Syndicate 334 action hinged on a single case of alleged negligence involving the writing of a reinsurance contract in 1981. The policy

was declared void in 1990 because Pulbrook had failed to disclose various matters material to the assessment of risk underwritten. That left names exposed to losses estimated at £80 million. The judge, Mr Justice Potter, gave no indication of the size of any award.

Clive Francis, leader of the Syndicate 334 names, hailed the judgment as an "unquestionable" victory which gave hope to other names fighting their managing agents over long-tail insurance claims. Mr Francis, a retired fighter pilot who claims to have suffered losses of £3 million at Lloyd's, said the win "gives me no great pleasure. We're seeing a great British institution dying".

The judgment potentially allows the Syndicate 334 names to recover a substantial part of their losses from managing agents — provided the money is available for distribution. That will depend on the extent of errors and omissions insurance taken out by the agents to cover potential claims. The court case had been given only a 2 per cent chance of success by Lloyd's.



Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, touring a Philips components plant in Durham yesterday after opening a £16 million extension. It will create an additional 300 jobs and is the first part of a £50 million investment.

C&W hopes for Indonesia telecom stake

By ERIC REGULY

CABLE AND WIRELESS will learn within a few weeks whether it has won the contest to buy a 25 per cent stake in Satelit Palapa Indonesia, a fast-growing Indonesian telecommunications company, for up to \$600 million. The purchase would mark C&W's biggest investment outside Britain after Hong Kong Telecom, in which it owns 57.5 per cent.

C&W would not confirm or deny that it is on the shortlist of bidders for the Indonesian company, known as Satelit. The other main contender, Deutsche Telekom, would not comment either.

Analysts said that Satelit fits in line with C&W's investment strategy of going after the emerging second player in a high-growth market. C&W, for example, has become the dominant telecoms provider in the Caribbean and holds a 25 per cent interest in Optus Communications, Australia's second largest telecoms provider.

Satelit, which is only two years old, has licences for satellite communications, through its Palapa satellites, mobile phones and direct-dial international calls.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BAA in talks to build Philippines terminal

BAA, the airport operator, has confirmed that it is in advanced talks to join a consortium of Filipino businessmen to build a new airport terminal in Manila. The deal, if successful, will be the company's most significant overseas investment to date. The company is expected to take a 40 per cent stake in the project to develop a terminal capable of handling 10 million passengers a year, making it as large as each of Gatwick's terminals. BAA will be working with Asia's Emerging Dragons Corporation, a group of six leading local businessmen.

The group also intends to develop Clark, the former US Air Force Base, as a regional airport north of Manila. The aim is to develop an airport that will be able to handle up to 3 million passengers by the year 2003. A spokeswoman for BAA said the company was extremely keen to develop its interests in South-East Asia. The group is also expected to bid for several of Australia's airports when they are put up for sale in April. The company hopes to complete the joint venture within weeks.

Forte debts to jump

DEBTS at Forte, the hotels group, will leap £460 million in its next set of figures, because of new FRSS accounting rules on sale and leasebacks. The group has sold and leased back more than 50 hotels, Travelodge Inns and Little Chef roadside restaurants. However, Forte's auditors have insisted that the group take the majority back on its balance sheet. Profits, meanwhile, will be £10 million lower than expected in 1994-95, because of the same accounting standard. *Tempos, page 24*

CIA in media takeover

CIA GROUP, the fast-growing advertising buyer and planner, has acquired Mansfield Lang Direct Media, a London direct media specialist which focuses on direct response, for up to £2 million. CIA is paying an initial £497,500 in cash and shares, with further payments of up to £1.5 million depending on MLD's future profit. Ken Mansfield, head of MLD, and Sharon Lang have signed service agreements with MLD to stay with the company until at least April 1997.

Arcadian buys hotels

ARCADIAN INTERNATIONAL, the hotels and property group, has completed its acquisition of two hotels for £10.3 million. The purchase of the Mollington Banastre, Cheshire, and the Haycock Hotel in Peterborough, which have a total of 115 bedrooms, has been funded by a £13.8 million placing and open offer. Arcadian said yesterday that the placing has been completed with both new and existing institutional shareholders subscribing for the shares.

Ashanti going for gold

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS, the Lonrho-managed Ghanaian gold mining company that returned to the London stock exchange lists last year after an international share placing, is sweeping through Africa in search of gold. Yesterday it announced a joint venture with South Africa's Johannesburg Consolidated Investment group to develop the Kalana gold mine in Mali, which closed in 1991. Ashanti has recently established exploration offices in Eritrea and Ethiopia.

BARCLAYCARD

Notification of an Interest Rate Change

Barclaycard announces a change in the monthly interest rate.

The monthly interest charged will be increased from 1.585% to 1.65%.

This increase will begin to affect transactions made from 1 March 1995 and will be charged and shown on cardholder statements issued from 1 April 1995 onwards until further notice. No interest is charged if the whole of the outstanding balance is repaid and received by Barclaycard by the payment due date shown on the statement.

Barclaycard Reserve announces an increase in the monthly rate of interest charged from 1.585% to 1.65%. Interest at the new rate, calculated on the daily outstanding balance, will be charged and shown on statements issued from 1 March 1995 and thereafter until further notice.

Clause 3(iii) of the Barclaycard Conditions of Use is amended accordingly.

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Wimpey buys McAlpine sites

GEORGE WIMPEY, the housebuilder and contractor, is paying £43.5 million for Alfred McAlpine Minerals Holdings, a chain of 16 quarries and five asphalt plants with total reserves of 100 million tonnes based largely in Central Scotland and North and South Wales.

The deal places Wimpey Minerals as the fifth largest producer of drystone quarried minerals in Britain and the fourth largest in coated stone.

Joe Dwyer, chief executive

of Wimpey, said the quarries, bought from Alfred McAlpine, another quoted building group, are located in regions of the country where Wimpey already operates a minerals business. The group believes, therefore, that cost savings of more than £1 million are possible from the business, which made £1 million in operating profits in the year to December 1993.

Mr Dwyer added: "I am confident that the contributions from our new purchase

will at least cover the interest and rationalisation costs in the first year of activity."

For its part, Alfred McAlpine said the disposal was expected to be earnings neutral, with interest savings on borrowings that would be wiped out by the proceeds of the sale largely covering the lost profits. Any gain arising from the disposal would also not attract tax because of earlier write-offs.

Tempos, page 24

Accountants suspended for 30 days

CASSON BECKMAN, the accountancy firm, has been suspended from carrying on investment business for 30 days after a partner misappropriated an estimated £2 million from his clients, including Robert Palmer, the rock star (Robert Bruce writes).

The financial services authorisation committee of the English JCA has announced that the firm, which ranks 19th in the UK with total fees of about £21 million a year, has been suspended from February 6. This is the longest suspension the committee can order, but it can apply for further extensions of the ban.

Casson Beckman was inspected by the institute's joint monitoring unit. Marc Vouters, of Casson Beckman, said that "we anticipate a clean bill of health as soon as the institute has completed its review".

The irregularities came to light last December and James Goldring later resigned.

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Rate
Australia	2.20	2.00
Belgium	17.72	16.22
Canada	51.88	47.88
France	18.88	17.88
Germany	6.75	6.25
Italy	9.99	9.17
Japan	7.30	7.25
Spain	2.20	2.00
Switzerland	360.00	360.00
USA	12.27	11.47
UK	1.00	0.57
Other	282.00	247.00
Japan Yen	189.00	182.00
Malta	6.00	5.60
Netherlands	2.815	2.585
Portugal	10.00	9.10
Portugal Esc	258.00	257.50
Spain Pes	252.00	198.00
Sweden Kr	12.19	11.28
Switzerland	2.14	1.26
Turkey Lira	1.00	0.40
Other	1.00	1.00

Notes for annual consideration travel notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers by cheque. Rates are at date of booking.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Gerald Ronson interview

Yes, I am back in the game and it's very exciting. We want to do some major transactions. I'm rocking and rolling...

Business special on Gerald Ronson. Only in The Sunday Times tomorrow

THE DREAM BECOMES REALITY

I have spent a lifetime in the whisky industry and always, my dream was to create a new single malt.

This dream is now being realised at Lochranza, where we are opening the first legal distillery on the Isle of Arran for over 150 years. The first Arran malt will be coming off the still in the spring of this year.

What will Isle of Arran single malt be like? It has been said that when whisky was last made on the island, it was claimed to be the best in Scotland.

With the quality of Arran's air and water, I am confident that we will be making one of Scotland's great malts and I invite you to reserve your stock now, by becoming a Founder Bondholder.

Founder Bondholders will have their own exclusive reserve which is obtainable at distillery prices - no retailers or other distributors involved.

For the Bond price of \$450, excluding duty, they will receive five 12-bottle cases of blended whisky in 1998 and five cases of Arran single malt in the year 2001 - the perfect way to start the new century!

You don't have to take your cases all at once, so you can spread the pleasure over years if you like by leaving your malt to mature even longer in cask. You can also spread the pleasure by sharing the price of a Bond with friends.



HAROLD CURRIE

Chairman of Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd. former Managing Director of Chivas Bros. and House of Campbell and former council member of the Scotch Whisky Association

As a Founder Bondholder, you will also have the privilege of continuing to buy whisky at distillery prices plus regular offers of very special single malts as we seek them out.

However, we plan to offer Founders' Bonds only until the distillery is formally in production.

So don't delay, send now for a brochure and be in at the birth of our new single malt.

ISLE OF ARRAN SINGLE MALT THE DREAM

For a brochure, telephone 01290 563265, fax 01290 560177, or post the coupon to Harold Currie, Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd, 1, The Cross, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 6DA

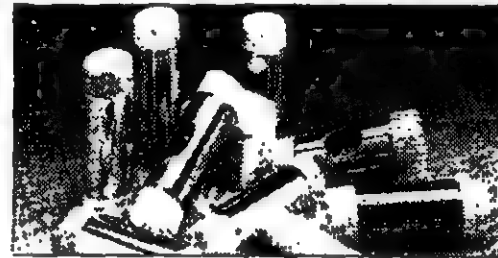
Dear Mr Currie: Please send me details on how I can become an Isle of Arran single malt Founder Bondholder.

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BBA: Vanni Treves and Bob Quarta

Quiet lawyer who released the 'Coiled Spring'

The tough stuff is just beginning but the hard man and the soft man are setting about a huge restructuring programme with a will, writes Susan Gilchrist

partners in power

When it comes to hard man/soft man routines, there could be no better exponents than Bob Quarta and Vanni Treves of BBA, the engineering and motor components group. Quarta, an aggressive Italian-American industrialist trained at the BTR charm school, is the ultimate hard man. Known as "Bob-the-Knife" in business circles, he is a small, pugnacious individual who looks as though he has stepped straight out of a Francis Ford Coppola gangster film. In sharp contrast, Vanni Treves, a senior partner of Macfarlanes, the blue chip City law firm, is the epitome of the urbane lawyer.

This unlikely duo came together less than 18 months ago when Treves recruited Quarta to help to turn BBA round. The company was feeling the financial effects of an eight-year spending spree under John White, its previous chief executive, who was widely seen as an acquisition junkie.

It was an awesome task, but Treves had no doubt that Quarta was the man for the job. "The thing that struck me about him is that he is a self-made man, which I admire enormously. He comes from a humble background — his father was a tailor — yet he was appointed to the main board of BTR, one of our most successful conglomerates, in his thirties. That is no mean achievement to a man like Treves, who, if the truth be known, is something of a BTR groupie."

Quarta certainly got to work in a BTR-like manner. Within months of joining he axed 2,000 jobs, forced through a £77 million restructuring charge — more than twice what the City had been expecting — and pledged to slash the dividend.

Treves insists he never balked at any of Quarta's actions. "We wanted him to be radical and I trusted his judgment. BBA had lost direction and there was a need for a new beginning. When Bob came in and said: 'Right, this is what I think needs doing, do you agree?' by and large we did."

Treves agrees that Quarta is aggressive but thinks that his reputation as a cold and ruthless businessman is undeserved. "The description 'Bob-the-Knife' is just nonsense. He has done no more than you would expect someone in

his position to do. He is actually a very fair man and I think there is a very proper streak of sentimentality about him which I applaud." Nevertheless, Treves does understand how Quarta earned his other nickname, "Coiled Spring."

"He does possess a tremendous amount of barely-sublimated energy. One feels that at any time the lid of the box could come off and he could come flying out. But then he is a driven man, who works extremely hard and is extremely ambitious."

In spite of this ambition, Treves says there is no rivalry between them. "He doesn't want my job and I certainly don't want his. As an American client of mine said in another context: 'I don't need the power, I don't need the money and I don't need the aggravation.'"

He believes their contrasting backgrounds in law and industry are a healthy mix. "He is an industrialist to his fingertips. I am not and don't pretend to be. But I do know how the City thinks." He says Quarta is an energetic, hands-on manager who loves rolling up his sleeves and visiting factories. It is hard to imagine the smooth Treves being comfortable in such an environment. While Quarta is a straight-talking businessman, saying exactly what he thinks, Treves is more elliptical. In speech, he is very careful to choose his words, but often to disguise rather than enhance his meaning.

The two do have one thing in common — both were born in Italy, although Treves concedes Quarta is the more typically Italian of the two. "But it means I understand what makes him tick," he adds.

Although they meet nearly every day — Macfarlanes' offices are a short walk from BBA's new headquarters in Fleet Street, central London — they also have a formal get-together every six months to review progress and each other.

The last one was, says Treves, a positive affair. And the venue? Appropriately, a small Italian restaurant in New York.

Bob Quarta was a high-flyer at BTR and was even seen as a contender for the top job. Nevertheless, being chief executive at BBA was an offer he could not refuse. "It had all the makings of the excitement I was looking for," he says, conceding that he is a man who likes large doses of commercial adrenalin.

In spite of his more aggressive style, he warned to Treves immediately. "I thought he was very distinguished but also laid-back, the type who didn't wear a jacket just to sit around and have a talk."

He instinctively knew they could work together, and he says Treves has been unfailingly supportive, however radical his actions.

"I think the size of the rationalisation provision took him by surprise but he recognised it had to be done. Vanni has been a great ally. When you come into a job like this it is lonely and you need someone to talk to. You are coming in and making huge changes but you don't know who you can trust. It's nice to be able to pick up the phone and chat with him. Vanni was always there. But then he was the one who got the horse in, so he has to back it."

He agrees there could hardly be a greater contrast between the two of them. Treves is a classic establishment figure who holds senior positions at the National Portrait Gallery, Royal Academy of Arts and J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust along with his business interests, whereas he concedes he is more of a maverick.

"I am unconventional and I often do the unexpected. At BTR I was brought up to take risks but I am not a gambler. It is all about taking calculated risks." He believes the scale of the £77 million provision

was a calculated risk, but insists it was the right thing for the business.

Like Treves he rejects the mythology that has built up around him. "I guess some people think I am ruthless because I make tough decisions. Out of the two names, I prefer 'Coiled Spring'. I can't sit still and I get bored very easily. I remember the headhunter who got me into BBA said: 'I have never had an interview like it. I am used to people sitting on the couch to talk, but you got up every two minutes and started walking round the office.' I have always been like that."

Quarta also talks at a million miles an hour, a typical trait of those who prefer life in the fast lane. As a young man he believed this insatiable desire for excitement could be satisfied by becoming an FBI agent. But a spell in the army during the Vietnam War soon opened his eyes. "By the time I got through that I knew government service was not for me," he says.

He tried the business world instead and has never looked back. He believes he would never have got this far if it had not been for the vision of some of his bosses. "I have been fortunate in that I have always worked for people who recognised that I wanted to move faster than normal. In my first job the firm had this 16-week training programme where you went from department to department. Well, I can assure you I didn't last 16 weeks. That could have been disaster because they could have just thrown me out, but fortunately they didn't. I have been lucky that the people above me always recognised I was a little different and always knew when I was about to get bored. Then they just gave me a bit more and a bit more. Vanni is just the same."

He knows that the really hard work at BBA is just beginning. The group still has some way to go in its wide-ranging disposal programme and Quarta has set a target of achieving double-digit margins by next year. While he may have proved he can cut costs, his critics claim he will find it harder to generate growth — an allegation he firmly rejects. "I know some people think I came out of a slash and burn mentality, but when I was at BTR I actually grew businesses," says Quarta. Perhaps he is not just the hard man everyone thinks he is.



Vanni Treves, left, chairman, and Bob Quarta, chief executive: different paths from Italy to BBA

Eurostar joins up the capitals but the passengers stay away

Ross Tieman took the train to Paris and found empty seats all around him

High-speed rail services between Britain and France are scarcely three months old, but appear to be on route for commercial disaster.

Many of the 800-seat trains on the London-Paris route are running almost empty. Between London and Paris loadings are woefully inadequate.

On the 17.48 from London to Paris this week, there were fewer than ten people in my 52-seat coach. Almost all the travellers were French. Returning on the 12.12 next day, less than half the seats were taken.

Not a single flight has been cancelled by the train's airline rivals. Even though London-Paris is the busiest air route in Europe, with 3.65 million travellers a year, the trains, each costing £20 million of taxpayers' money in 1988 prices, have failed to capture any significant proportion of the traffic, despite comparable city centre to centre journey times.

British Airways, which with its partner airlines operates 24 daily flights each way between London and Paris, says the impact of the train has been minimal. A spokeswoman for Air France, which flies 13 times a day in each direction, estimated the drop in numbers at about 7 per cent.

Put simply, the three national railway companies that

are partners in the Eurostar service have introduced too much capacity and made too little effort to sell it.

The Eurostar trains are twice the size of conventional high-speed trains, comprising two power cars and 18 coaches offering almost 800 seats. Four trains are running every weekday to Paris, and three to Brussels, with the same number coming back.

This is a very large rise in capacity on these routes. Civil Aviation Authority figures show that during 1993 an average of 9,990 passengers travelled from London to Paris every day. Eurostar is now offering 3,200 seats a day on that route — an extremely lumpy increase in capacity. But how many passengers are likely to switch?

Air France says 60 per cent of its London-Paris travellers are connecting with onward flights. BA's figure is about 40 per cent. So in real terms, Eurostar's four daily trains to Paris have multiplied city-centre to city-centre capacity on the route from around 5,000 passengers to about 8,200.

British Midland, another

competitor, estimates that in the long term, the airlines may lose 20 per cent of their traffic. If so, Eurostar is already offering more capacity than it needs to win its long-term market share.

From London to Brussels, the scenario is even worse. Air traffic between London and Brussels during 1993 was 1,159,855 passengers, an average of 1,589 travellers from London each day. Eurostar's three daily trains offer 2,400 seats. No wonder they are empty.

Eurostar may hesitate to sell its services too heavily until mechanical reliability is assured. But if the three-rail consortium is to stem its mounting losses, sooner or later it must make a serious effort to attract huge numbers of new travellers to both routes.

Will it do so? The omens are poor. Although the experience of travelling from the centre of London to the centre of Paris compares favourably with the journey by air, for economy passengers the airlines are easily on frequency, price and service. British Midland offers hot towels, free food, free

drinks and the chance to shop duty free for £68 plus £7.40 in taxes. Its rivals are little different.

The train's minimum fare is £95 return. In-transit service is an infrequent and expensive, drinks trolley. There is no entertainment, no cossetting.

A "fully-flexible" second-class ticket costs £155, although staff say that if you change your return reservation in Paris, you will have to buy a new ticket, and claim a refund later.

But a first class return fare of £195, including free five course meal and drinks each way, compares favourably with the £250 equivalent from Air France.

Eurostar is concentrating on the wrong market. It is price-cutting on first class fares, perhaps to compensate for its infrequent services. But instead of trying to create a new market by offering high standard economy travel at low prices, it is charging more than the airlines, for an inferior service. Even more astounding, it is rationing the cheap seats, preferring to haul empty trains. This is madness.

Eurostar should have bought more, much smaller trains with in-transit entertainment. Only one strategy will save it now. Having piled seats high, it must sell 'em cheap.



Acres of space in a Eurostar carriage: the airlines say the train's impact on their figures has been minimal

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Investors beat a cautious path to South Africa



The fate of retirement funds when marriages fail is taxing judges and Parliament, Jill Insley reports

Divorce sparks a battle for pension

The House of Lords is to rule on an important case that will help to clarify the complicated issue of pension rights for divorced couples.

Douglas and Anne Brooks, who are getting divorced after 12 years of married life in Berkshire, are locked in legal combat over who should benefit from Mr Brooks's pension. Mr Brooks is taking the dispute to the House of Lords after the lower courts found against him.

The Court of Appeal last year supported the initial ruling that Mrs Brooks was entitled to a share in her husband's pension — a fund believed to be worth more than £500,000.

The case has been hailed as a landmark in the treatment of spouses' pensions in England and Wales. Although Scottish courts divide up pension values in the same way as other assets belonging to divorcing couples, English courts have traditionally taken a more tentative approach.

They have taken the view that they lacked power to touch a pension accumulated in the name of one partner, typically the husband.

More often than not, this has meant that a wife ends up with the family home, but no pension, while her ex-husband receives all the retirement benefits but has no roof over his head.

This crude approach has failed to recognise the importance of pension savings — most people's biggest asset after their home.

The Brooks split six years ago, after Mr Brooks started a relationship with a holiday camp entertainer.

Mrs Brooks's lawyer, Martin Ison, an associate with Paisner, the London firm of solicitors, says that Mr Brooks has made it very clear that he does not want to give up any of his pension rights. "Mr Brooks's position, as stated, is that he was only going to give Mrs Brooks a certain amount. She either accepted or rejected

it — without full disclosure of his assets," Mr Ison said. "He also made it clear during the trial that he would not have the pension policies interfered with in any way."

Mr Brooks will appeal on April 5 to the Lords. If he loses, the divorce courts could face a flood of claims from spouses wanting a share of their partner's retirement income.

Mr Ison says: "Most pension problems are created by the existence of the pension in favour of the husband where the wife is at home. It is that which created such an enormous interest."

A recent Prudential advertisement points out that the only step most women took to fund their retirement was to marry, as they then supposed, for life.

However, Richard Malone, of Noble Lowndes and vice-president of the Pensions Management Institute, says: "In the UK, there are 400,000 marriages and 150,000 divorces each year. Over the course of a decade, the size of this problem is mounting. It is a big problem for the country."

The Pensions Management Institute would like the Government to amend the Pensions Bill, currently before Parliament, to allow courts to share out occupational and personal pension rights between divorcing parties.

In 1992, the Pensions Management Institute and the Law Society appointed a working group funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to investigate the treatment of pension rights in divorce cases. The group concluded that pension rights should be valued by using the same statutory cash equivalent as that used for calculating transfer payments, and that courts' powers to share out pension rights should extend to both the working population and pensioners.

Although the Goodie Committee, whose report formed the foundation of the Pensions Bill, proposed that these recommendations be added to the new legislation, the Govern-



Anne Brooks says she has earned a share of the pension for running the home and being a general dogsbody in her working life

ment omitted to include a section on pensions and divorce.

Mr Malone says: "There have been situations where pension schemes have been accused of being out of touch with social changes — for example on job changes. Here's a situation where we were trying to take the initiative and the Government is hesitating."

However, Fairshares, a campaign group set up to lobby for legislation allowing the courts to include pensions in the assets to be divided between divorcees, hopes that amendments will be made to the Pensions Bill in the House of Lords at committee stage this month.

Harry Cohen, Labour MP for Leyton and a supporter of Fairshares, says: "If it doesn't happen in the House of Lords, I'll be waiting for them in the Commons."

Meanwhile, Mrs Brooks, who is 56 and lives in

Sunningdale, Berkshire, must wait until the House of Lords makes its decision to finalise her divorce.

She says: "I earned the pension for running the home and being a general dogsbody throughout my married life. We had posh cars, exotic holidays, an expensive lifestyle ... Now, I only have my old age pension."

Mr Brooks was unavailable for comment.

■ Fiona Price & Partners publish *The Divorced Women's Survival Kit*, a guide to preparing for divorce, achieving settlement and planning post-divorce. The guide can be ordered by sending a cheque for £2.95 to Fiona Price & Partners, 33 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AA.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Cuts aimed at broken families

The Government looks set to meet fierce opposition if it forces through proposals to abolish income-support payments to divorced or separated people who took out business loans or other loans secured on their homes while they were married. Many of these people set up businesses in the late 1980s, only to see them collapse in the recession.

The proposals, contained in an internal social security memorandum, are likely to be included in a consultative document to be issued next week by the Social Security Advisory Committee, which advises the Social Security Department. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, has already announced big cuts to income support for mortgage borrowers from October, but many of the details have still not been announced.

Housing advisers and lenders say that any move to withdraw income support for these loan payments would leave more divorced people, particularly women, facing repossession. The Council of Mortgage Lenders has repeatedly said that plans to cut income support will increase the numbers of repossessions.

Many couples took out loans secured on their homes when house prices were rising and people had more equity in their property. Secured loans were taken out to fund businesses, to buy cars and, increasingly, to pay off other debts. But if they subsequently divorced or separated, the wife was often left with a large debt and the threat of repossession if she could not pay.

Under the present system, if you are divorced or separated and your former partner cannot, or will not, make repayments on a secured loan, you can claim income support to cover payments if you have little enough income or savings to qualify for state help. If payments are not made, lenders can repossess, even if the loan is not in your name. Separated couples are exempt from rules restricting most people from claiming income support for secured loans that are not used to buy the house or pay for what the social security department considers necessary repairs and improvements.

Mr Lilley has made it clear that borrowers will be expected to take out their own insurance to cover mortgage payments if they lose their jobs or cannot work through illness or disability.

But the Association of British Insurers said: "Cover against the financial consequences of divorce has in the past been included in a very few creditor insurance schemes, but is not presently available in mortgage-payment protection policies."

SARA MCCONNELL

Power to the people

Come Valentine's Day, some 2½ million people will have registered for the sale of the Government's remaining shares in National Power and PowerGen. The companies, at least, must hope that nothing like that number actually buy shares and keep them. Huge share registers are costly for all but the biggest companies to run and make communications with shareholders inflexible. In reality, the promoters assume most of the new investors will be transitory, keeping their shares only until they have had the benefit of paying by instalments. But the power sale and the possible later privatisations of Railtrack and the Post Office, will surely give another final push to the bandwagon of wider share ownership.

At the same time, however, the expense and inconvenience of trading small numbers of shares is threatening to disenfranchise the new generation of investors that the City and the Government encouraged to venture beyond utility stocks. They are likely either to lose their direct connection with the companies they invest in, or to be charged for the privilege. Market forces are pushing all but wealthy investors insistently into collective investments.

As letters from readers of *The Times* testify, ever more traditional investors are being cajoled into holding their shares via nominees. Investors in personal equity plans, whose tax concessions are the main spur to investment in shares after privatisation, have no choice. Under the planned new settlement systems for share dealings, which have already led to the leisurely old



INVESTMENT STRATEGY

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Stock Exchange trading account being abolished, nominees will become the norm for investors who trade their shares, if not for those who just sit on shares in a few privatised utilities.

There is nothing sinister about this. If the nominee system is more efficient, it should take over. There are, however, two problems. Unless the nominee holding is arranged by the company you are investing in, you are usually charged for the privilege and lose the non-financial rights of being a shareholder.

Last month, ProShare, the body set up to represent individual investors, published a simple draft code that would restore those rights. Its research found that most investors follow their shares regularly, and want the usual shareholder rights and information, even if they do not understand a lot of it. This is evidently surprising many in the business establishment. But it should not. Frankly, investors who do not even want to receive a company's annual report

should be in trusts. Under the ProShare code, investors would simply ask the nominee to tell the company that they wanted the rights of direct ownership. The company would then be obliged to send annual reports, interim statements, scrip issues or takeover bids, and allow the investor any perks attached to the shares. Investors could tell their nominees what action to take and could vote by proxy at company meetings. Only attending and speaking at meetings appeared to present much difficulty.

That proviso is important. It is pointless to argue that, say, boardroom pay is a matter for shareholders, if most of them cannot even ask about it. Otherwise the code looks fine. But it will be no use unless it is put into practice. If it is voluntary, as ProShare assumes, this may not happen. ProShare found that a big minority of quoted companies were not keen on implementing the code. Worse, many nominees were lukewarm about providing the facilities it calls for. The Stock Exchange might be able to lean on recalcitrant companies, but the practices of nominees are not systematically regulated and they can scupper the code by not publicising the facilities or by charging heavily for them.

The Government and City regulators must make a decision. Either they enforce the ProShare code or they must accept that market forces will gradually write private shareholders out of their supposed role in company affairs.

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Robert Miller looks into funds that aim to mimic the performance of the main stock market indices

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On a new track to investment



The concept of index tracking gives a better than sporting chance of matching the return of your chosen index

Few investment themes are capable of generating such heated debate as index tracking. Those in favour of linking the fortunes of their funds to the main stock market indices, whether in the UK, Europe, Japan, or the US, say that since these are probably the most widely-used benchmarks for measuring performance, it is natural to stick as closely as possible to a particular index.

Those against index tracking as a means of managing money, and that means the vast majority of "active" managers, argue that it is just "the lazy man's way of looking after other people's money".

Index tracking for retail unit trusts, as opposed to life and pension funds, is relatively new. According to Micropal, there is no track record of longer than three years for the 20 unit trusts in existence over that period. But today the ranks have swelled to 31.

The largest European index-tracking house is BZW Investment Management, which looks after £20 billion of index-tracking assets. Nancy Dickey, a BZW director, estimates that more than £100 billion is now invested in index-tracking funds.

The concept of index tracking is simple. Rather than trying to second guess which particular companies, or sectors, are going to be the star performers in any given month, or year, you bet on the lot. That at least gives a better than sporting chance of matching the return of your chosen

index. So, for example, if you believe that the outlook for the UK market is good, then you link your fortunes to the FT-SE Actuaries All-Share index. This covers more than 900 companies.

But very few unit trusts have sufficient funds to match the exact weighting in 900-plus companies. So each fund management house in the index-tracking business, including Morgan Grenfell, Legal & General,

Gartmore and Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (formerly James Capel's index funds) has devised its own tracking technique.

Ms Dickey explains: "Index tracking is computer driven and very much a concept. We create a sampling technique where we pick the top 300 or 400 companies and replicate them exactly in proportion to their index weighting. Then we pick the sectors and smaller companies in

proportion to their position in the index. What the computer program is looking for in selecting these stocks is that they most nearly reflect the characteristics of the index as a whole."

Ms Dickey says that according to WM, the statistics company, the average return from pension funds investing in UK equities has been 0.4 per cent below the return of the All-Share index in every year over the

past decade. But no fund using indexing techniques can hope to match the index precisely. Fund incoherence even if trading is minimal, whereas an index does not. The industry's standard deviation is 0.5 per cent either side of the line.

Ms Dickey also points out that once the index portfolio has been decided there is far less trading than in an active fund. She says: "The average level of turnover in an index fund is 10 to 15 per cent, compared with an active fund where it is between 60 to 120 per cent, with the average being 85 per cent."

Barry Holman, director of index funds at Legal & General, which has nearly £500 million invested in its five index trackers, says: "You have to add back the management charges. But over a ten-year period, I think you will find that trackers certainly come out well above the average. L&G's European, US, and Japanese trackers aim to match the FTA World Index Series for each country."

Mr Holman adds: "The reason for investing in a tracker is that you are taking a view on a market or asset allocation rather than an individual stock or sector."

A tracker is a core holding and one that should be held for some time to stand the best chance of a reasonable return. If your tracker fund consistently underperforms a particular index, then the computer program is at fault, not the concept.

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Both Brazil and Argentina, once seen as the great hopes of Latin American investment, have suffered setbacks as economic confidence has been shaken.

But, looking further ahead, the solid groundwork in conquering inflation is unlikely to be wasted, with the longer term outlook still strong.

In uncertainty...

China sits waiting for a new leader to emerge. And nowhere can be sure to avoid the impact of the new regime. In Europe, political confusion is the order of the day. Both Great Britain and Italy see their current political order either threatened or in tatters as a result of crises of confidence or scandals. But Europe has its share of world class companies, and the prospect of vigorous competition as Eastern Europe re-builds.

North America, too, has had its own share of investment inertia as the Clinton administration founders on a reef of unpopularity and allegations, but US companies are renowned for their ability to react positively to competition and opportunity.

There is opportunity.

And in the Far East, political uncertainty in North Korea continues to cast a shadow over parts of the region. Nonetheless, the emerging economies on the Pacific Rim still contain some of the most exciting and ambitious companies to be found anywhere in the world - not least in the extremely attractive high-tech sector.

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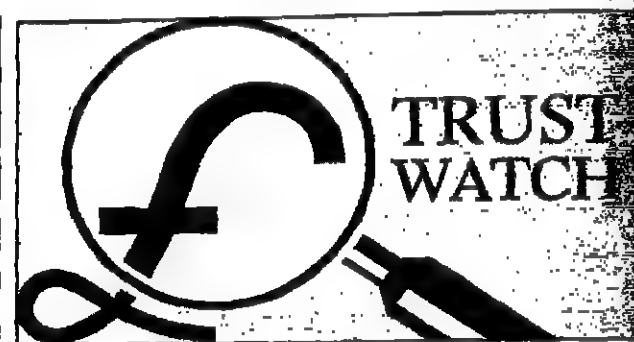
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THE Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) returned to the unit trust market this week with a vengeance. Less than a year after selling its Capital House unit trust operation to Newton Management, RBS has unveiled a new unit trust management arm that will sell its trusts through the bank's 750-strong UK branch network. RBS is promoting five unit trusts that also offer low-cost regular monthly savings schemes. Three of the five trusts, Income, Growth and Balanced, qualify for inclusion in a personal equity plan. The other two are International Growth and International Bond funds. Newton will act as fund manager to the new RBS trusts, which are offering a 2 per cent launch discount on the front-end charge until April 30.

Norwich Union, the insurance group, has rolled out its twelfth unit trust. Its Balanced Income fund, which has a minimum investment of £1,000, has an initial gross yield of 7 per cent. The trust, which will invest in gilts, corporate bonds and high-yielding equities, can also be ring-fenced in a PEP.

A trust launch with a differ-

ence this week comes from Finsbury Asset Management with a Worldwide Pharmaceutical investment trust, the first of its kind. Up to 80 per cent of the proposed portfolio will be invested in large global pharmaceutical companies with the remainder in smaller companies.

Because of its international bias, the new trust is a "non-qualifier" for PEP purposes, so only £1,500 can be sheltered within a PEP plan.

Offshoots also featured strongly this week. Guinness Flight's Global Balanced Fund, which will invest in equities, bonds and cash, is based in Guernsey and is part of the company's Global Strategy umbrella fund. Minimum investment is £5,000 with an initial charge of 5 per cent (4 per cent until March 31).

Fidelity's new Switzerland fund will be based in Luxembourg where it joins the company's umbrella fund. The minimum investment is £1,500. Details: RBS: 0800 716749; Norwich Union: 01603 684757; Finsbury: 0171-623 1363; Flight: 01481 712176; Fidelity: 0800 414161.

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Nearing the end of an unhappy chapter

A luxury Bond Street headquarters should soon be falling vacant, ending an unhappy chapter in the history of financial advice and investor protection.

Knight Williams, the controversial retirement planning business, may finally have found a buyer in the conservative shape of Gerrard Vivian Gray, the stockbroker.

For the hundreds who have made complaints about the performance of their funds, the only regret may be the whisper that Robin Knight Bruce, the chairman, and John Williams, managing director, may collect £1 million each from the sale.

The end of the home-income debacle is however not in sight. The road leading to compensation is



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

like the M25 redesigned by the artist Escher, the illusion of stairs lead you on an eternal ascent and descent to nowhere, many elderly home-income plan victims have, in their search for recompense met impasse, cul-de-sac and one-way street.

Persuaded in the late Eighties to borrow against their homes and reinvest the proceeds in insurance company bonds, they believed

that they would live happily ever after. Instead, they wake each day to the knowledge that their debts are growing larger. The bonds, now mostly surrendered, failed to fulfill their promise of providing an income and meeting the mortgage payments.

It is hoped that two developments, announced this week, will clarify the compensation rules and shed further light on the involvement of one major building society in the home-income plan affair.

The West Bromwich Building Society, which provided mortgages to the customers of Fisher Prew Smith, the now collapsed home-income plan firm, is finally to be called before the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee.

Late last year, the society's home-income plan dealings were the subject of a report compiled by Fimbra, the financial advisers' regulator. For the sake of the 600 West Bromwich home-income plan borrowers, the committee members should call for this document to be made public.

The request should cause no problems whatsoever to the West Bromwich, as it has always pleaded its innocence. Publication should also be supported by the regulators, since they have consistently maintained that their supervision of home-income plan

operators was beyond reproach. Meanwhile, on May 22, the Lords will pass judgment on an application by the Investors' Compensation Scheme to limit the amounts it pays to thousands of home-income plan victims.

The ICS wishes to exclude sums withdrawn from plans for personal expenditure on items, such as cars and holidays.

The customers were led to believe that they were spending the profits from their bonds, rather than drawing down capital. Indeed, the directors of the firms often encouraged the purchase of the Mini Metro.

As in so many other things, these 70-year-olds were misled and deserve restitution without further delay. The cliché, "not getting any younger" sums up the urgency of their situation.

Firm urges public not to buy stock

Tony Hetherington on a bid to sell shares against a company's wishes

A fledgling computer company that has signed a big contract with London Underground is advising the public not to buy its shares. Hundreds of thousands of shares in Channel i, of Chelsea, are believed to have fallen into the hands of an offshore broking firm on the Costa del Sol, which has been ramping the price and issuing misleading information about the company.

Channel i has signed an agreement with London Underground to put information kiosks into scores of Tube stations. Passengers will be able to find out how to get from one part of London to another and get details on shops and tourist attractions.

The kiosks will also sell products such as insurance to travellers who can punch in their personal details while waiting for their trains to arrive. A quote will appear on the kiosk screen for whatever goods or services are requested. The customer can then pay by inserting a credit card or special Channel i swipe card.

Channel i is basically a British firm, but its shares are traded by few brokers in the US, where rules on dealing in the shares of start-up companies are more relaxed. In a bid to raise capital, directors were introduced by a small American firm called Resource Finance Group to Andy Kacic, an Arizona business-

man, who offered to place hundreds of thousands of shares at about 66 cents (42p) each. Those shares appear to have passed via a company in Belgium to Datacorp, a broking firm headed by Peter Collins, an associate of Mr Kacic. Datacorp, which is based in Malaga in Spain, has been selling the shares at up to \$7 (£4.50) each.

Datacorp — which has also been promoting shares in Resource Finance Group — is a classic share-pushing "boiler room" operation, well known to investor-protection officials in Europe and North America. It sends investment newsletters to members of the public by mailshots and follows them up with hard-selling telephone calls from American or Canadian salesmen.

The company's office in Malaga, conceals the location of its telephone sales room. This was in a discreet office block in Marbella, and is now believed to be in Amsterdam.

Datacorp has circulated to clients a lavish brochure about Channel i. The brochure, which the company directors say they are trying to have withdrawn, shows pictures of information kiosks bearing the names of Hallfords, the motoring suppliers shopping chain, and Direct Line, the car insurer.

Captions suggest the number of kiosks is in the process of growing from less than



Channel i, a computer company, has signed a big contract with London Underground

100,000 in 1991 to more than two million in 1996. But careful reading of the brochure reveals this has nothing to do with Channel i. The figures relate to kiosks provided by rival companies in the US, where Channel i has none.

Direct Line said: "We did operate pilot kiosks for about two years in 20 Halfords stores. The screens were quite popular as far as people waiting queues were concerned, but there just wasn't the volume of follow-up business so we abandoned it. That was about four years ago."

Direct Line was unaware that the brochure issued in support of Channel i's shares gave the impression of a current link between the two companies. "That is very naughty!" it said.

Jeremy Renton, a Channel i director, said that the brochure produced in America was not the responsibility of the company. He said: "The price at which these shares are being sold is ridiculous. It is not in our interests at all that this should be happening."

Mr Kacic was unavailable for comment and did not return calls.

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Disclosure prompts CU product revamp

Money Marketing 12 January 1995

Allied Dunbar to replace pensions with single plan

By Allison Smith

Allied Dunbar, the life insurer owned by BAF Industries, the tobacco and financial services group, is to replace its range of pension policies with a single adaptable plan intended to give customers greater flexibility.

From the start of next year, customers will be able to decide on specific payment terms for regular contributions, and switch between different types of personal pension within a single plan.

The commissions which Allied Dunbar pays its sales force and independent financial advisers will be trimmed and spread over a longer period of time instead of being taken entirely from the initial premiums.

The move is a further sign of the way the life insurance industry is responding to the forthcoming new regulatory regime.

Financial Times 22 November 1994

Prudential plans changes to meet policy sales rules

By Allison Smith

Prudential Corporation yesterday became the latest life insurer to respond to new rules on giving more information to customers buying policies by promising to introduce changes next year.

Financial Times 8 December 1994

Sun Alliance revamps products to fit disclosure

Pensions Management February 1995

NU launches new pensions range

Pensions Management February 1995

Norwich Union has launched a range of new unitised with profit pension products in line with the introduction of hard disclosure on commission.

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Drug shares enjoy good run

All eyes turned to the pharmaceutical sector last month when Glaxo unveiled Britain's biggest bid, a £9 billion-plus hostile offer for Wellcome (Liz Dolan writes).

Drug company shares have already enjoyed a good run, with all stocks moving up pretty well in line. But Robin Gilbert, of Parumure Gordon, the stockbroker, says: "We still think there's more to go for."

Others are less convinced. Once Wellcome is out of the running, Zeneca will be the only credible takeover prospect, but it is already the second most expensive drugs business in the world in terms of its price/earnings ratio. Its current market value is £8 billion, representing a hefty outlay for any predator. Glaxo, strongly rumoured to have approached, and been rebuffed by, Zeneca before going for Wellcome, is one of very few international drugs companies able to afford that kind of money.

The Wellcome acquisition will wipe out Glaxo's £2.5 billion cash pile and leave it with a debt of more than £3 billion, ruling out any other sizeable bids from that quarter for some years to come.

Shares in Wellcome, which rocketed 273p to 961p when the bid was announced, had grown to 1,024p by the end of this week. A white knight could still up the ante. Depending on the size of any new offer, Glaxo will probably cap it. But, has anyone the will,

and the means, to join the fray?

SmithKline Beecham is pretty much takeover-proof. "You'd need to offer at least £20 billion for it and I can't see anyone coming up with that," says one stockbroker.

While realistic takeover targets may be thin on the ground, some stocks may still have something to offer the investor. Parumure is forecasting a 25 per cent uplift in Glaxo's profits in 1995-96, if the deal goes through, and the shares have moved little since the bid was announced.

Solid, and steady, SB should not be ruled out, Mr Gilbert says, and Zeneca

SECTOR IN FOCUS



has an enviable list of products in the pipeline. The only other stock of any size in the sector are Medeva and Fisons. Medeva's ambition to become an international drugs giant will be largely achieved through acquisition. For that, it will need equity funding, which means decent earnings growth. Problems with previous acquisitions, which sparked a surprise profits warning in 1993, appear to have been solved. The share price has now caught up with the rest of the sector, after a 20 per cent outperformance last year, and the company is back on the acquisition trail.

Medeva's strange concoction of businesses and unusual management structure render it an unattractive takeover prospect.

Share of the week, page 30

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Switch on to power perks

Investors should act now to get the most out of power shares.

Liz Dolan reports

Time is running out for investors planning to register for the National Power and PowerGen offer. You have until this Tuesday, St Valentine's Day, to log your details with one of the 130 participating share shops.

If you miss the deadline, you can still buy the shares, but will forfeit your right to the perks. Existing shareholders are not registered automatically.

More details of the float emerged on Monday this week with the publication of the pathfinder prospectus. The publication had been delayed for a week after an eleven-hour intervention by the electricity regulator, Stephen Littlechild, forced City advisers to rewrite key sections of the prospectus.

Opinions differ as to why Professor Littlechild chose such a sensitive moment to castigate the generators for failing to control electricity prices. However, his timing certainly maximised the impact on any investors who are already nervous about the regulatory question marks overhanging the shares.

Have they fixed the offer price yet?

A Not exactly. The price of the first two instalments was revealed on Monday, but you will have to wait until the offer closes on March 6 before the third, and final, payment is announced. The first two instalments are the same: 170p per NP share and 185p per PowerGen share. The second instalment is due on February 6 next year and the third six months later. The first instalment will be lower for private shareholders than institutional investors. This discount is expected to be about 10 per cent.

What is the minimum investment?

A The minimum initial investment through the ordinary public offer is £352, which means a minimum total investment of about £1,000 if you stay the course for the full 18 months. You must apply for at least 200 shares, 120 NP and 80 PowerGen. The minimum initial investment via the retail tender offer is £3,000, which means about £8,000 in total.

What perks are offered?

A You have a choice of two. The first is a discount of 25p a share on the first 300 shares allocated - 10p off the second instalment and 15p off the third. Alternatively, you may prefer to receive one free share for every 15 held. The latter applies to the first 1,200 shares, held continuously until 31 March 1996. Existing shareholders in either company on September 30, 1994, prefer preference in allocation if

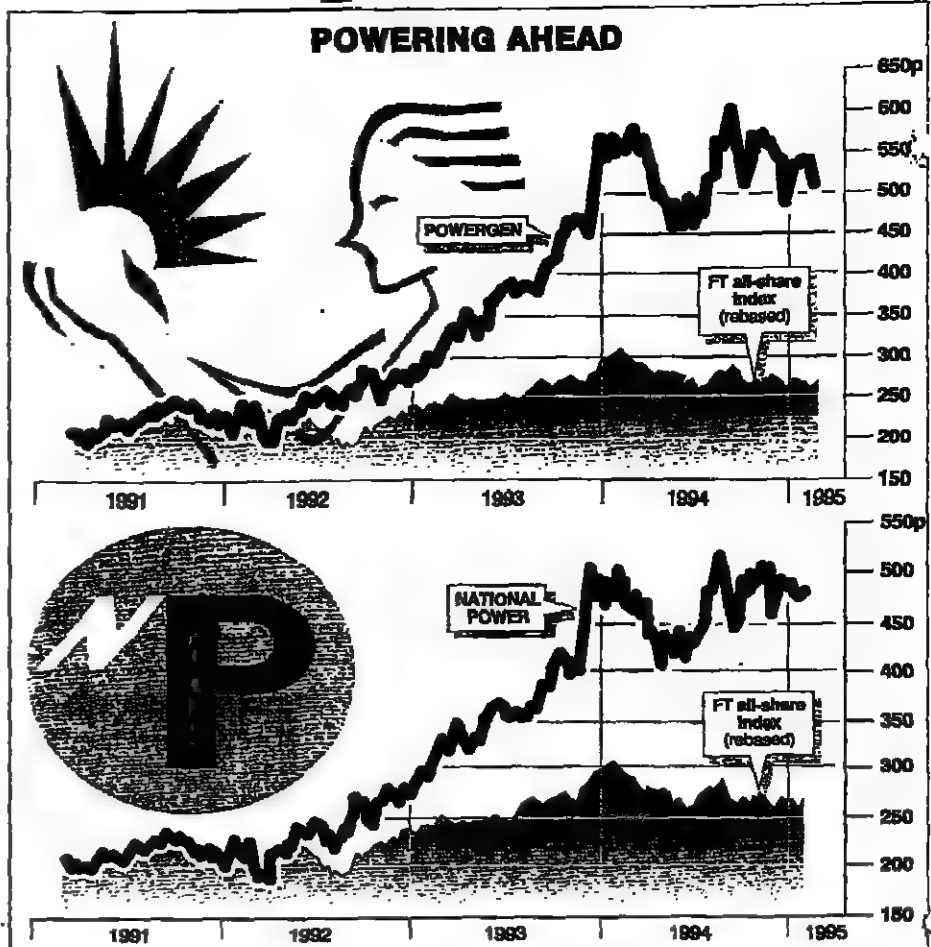
they quote their shareholder number when registering.

Do the experts reckon the shares are worth buying?

A Yes, on the whole. They look particularly attractive over the next year, largely because of the high dividend yield on the partly paid shares, reckoned to be about 14 per cent as the dividend payment is the same as on fully paid shares. Also, says Jeff Plowman of Wise Speke, the broker, FT-SE stocks are generally at their cheapest levels since 1987. However, by next year, the picture gets more complicated, as both companies are expected to be facing increasing competition in the UK generating market.

What sort of dividends can I expect to receive?

A Your first dividend from PowerGen will be about 10p a share and, from National Power, 11.1p a share. Kleinwort Benson, joint broker to the issue, reckons that



Q When should private investors consider applying through the retail tender offer?

A When they want more shares than they are likely to get through the UK public offer, especially if they are planning to PEP them. Preference will be given to retail tender applicants committed to a PEP. There are some 110 retail tender brokers, most of which are also share shops. You forfeit your right to perks if you choose this route.

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fears of unwelcome takeover bids will encourage the Gencos to follow a strategy of high dividend growth and share buy-backs to keep shareholders sweet.

Should I be concerned about the effect the regulator will have on the share price?

A It depends partly how long you are planning to hang on to your shares. Changes aimed at improving competition in the generating market will have a long-term effect on both businesses. If they are not carried out by a specific deadline. Offer, the regulator, is likely to refer both businesses to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Over the next 12 months, other considerations are probably more important.

Kleinwort Benson says: "Offer's aim is not to constantly screw down market prices, but to ensure generator prices are set by a competitive market." The problem is not new. All privatised utilities are answerable to a regulator. These are commonly criticised by consumer organisations for not being tough enough. Professor Littlechild himself was hailed over the coals this week for allowing Genco bosses to feather their own nests with huge salaries and generous share options.

Deadline for registrations

February 14

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Final instalment and allocations announced

March 6

Dealings in partly paid shares begins

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Liz Dolan and Ian Hunter look at the advice and assistance on offer to cope with redundancy

Help on the home front for jobless

Nearly 3,000 people lost their jobs this week when Rumbelows and Fona, the electrical chains, went out of business. The news will not have come as a complete surprise to many of them, as the press has been full of speculation about Rumbelows's demise for some time. But this will have done nothing to ease the pain of redundancy.

As employees of a large company — the stores were owned by Thorn EMI, the music and rentals giant — they will get more than the statutory redundancy package. This is just as well, as the legal minimum payoff is between £102.50 and £307.50 for every year worked, which is not aping to keep many wolves from many doors for long.

Under current regulations, people with mortgages who qualify for income support will at least get their monthly mortgage interest paid by the Department of Social Security. At the moment, mortgages are covered only up to £125,000. This will be cut to £100,000 in April. Payment is made at a reduced rate of 50 per cent for the first 16 weeks, but the DSS will consider requests for help in meeting mortgage arrears that have built up during that time.

Assistance is also available for related expenses, such as ground rent and essential repairs. Any benefit received from any mortgage-protection policy will be taken into account too.

Matters become more complicated after October, when new borrowers lose the right to state assistance with their mortgages, and initial payments for existing borrowers on 'income support' will be further reduced.

The Government expects private insurers to plug the gaps, but lenders and insurers are unhappy. The self-employed and people on short-term contracts are likely to have a particularly tough time finding affordable cover, let

alone getting insurers to pay out if the need arises.

There will also be many more opportunities for mix-ups and communication breakdowns between insurers, lenders and the DSS, as is amply illustrated by the case of Jane Winston, a reader. Ms Winston had the foresight to take out a protection plan to cover the mortgage payments if she was unable to work. When she was made redundant in 1993, the policy started to pay out.

The DSS then told her that, because of the money she was receiving from the policy, she would get only £15 a week in income support. "I was horrified," Ms Winston says. "That was supposed to pay for food, heating and other basic living expenses. It just didn't seem right."

She was further depressed when her local Citizens Advice Bureau confirmed that the DSS's calculations were correct. "They looked at the figures and said there was nothing they could do."

But Ms Winston was still convinced that something was wrong and visited another branch of the CAB. It was only then she discovered that her lender, the Halifax Building Society, had made a mistake with the figures. "They said my mortgage was £14,000, but it's actually £21,000. My insurance policy pays a bit extra after mortgage payments have been taken into account. The DSS looked at the Halifax's figures and worked out that I had a lot more over each week than I actually did."

In fact, Ms Winston receives £200 a month from the insurance company. She pays £150 to the Halifax, leaving less than £12.50 a week to live on. Her income-support payments have now been raised to £37.50. "I don't know what would have happened if I had just accepted the DSS's first offer," she says.



The self-employed are likely to have a tough time finding affordable insurance policies

Know your rights

Employees who are made redundant have certain rights and may be entitled to compensation.

The contractual claim normally relates to the employer's failure to give proper notice of dismissal. The starting point for calculating damages is the value of the net salary and benefits, such as pension contributions or use of a car, that the employee would have enjoyed during the notice period.

However, the employee is under a duty to seek to reduce the size of the claim by finding suitable alternative employment. Employees who find suitable comparable employment immediately or who are allowed to work out the notice period, will not be able to bring a claim.

Those who have worked for the same employer for more than two years may have a claim for unfair dismissal. The statutory award is made up of two parts. The first is a basic award that entitles the employee to between £102.50 and £307.50 for each completed year of employment, depending on age. The second, the compensatory award, is limited to £11,000.

An employee also has the right to seek re-engagement or reinstatement. However, such orders are granted only in exceptional cases. The employee can also claim in respect of outstanding salary, holiday pay, bonuses or commission.

Contractual claims, until last July, could be pursued only in the courts. Applications to the court must be made within six years of dismissal. Legal Aid is available to eligible claimants.

Since July, industrial tribunals have had authority to hear contractual claims. They now have the power to award compensation of up to £25,000. Up to the first £30,000 of any compensation payment, whether awarded by an industrial tribunal or a court, can usually be paid free of tax. Employees may also be able

to negotiate additional benefits at little extra cost to the employer. For example, if the employee is in a company health scheme or is a potential beneficiary under a life assurance policy, he or she can often be retained on the group policy at no extra cost until the renewal date.

Some employers will sell company cars to employees at written-down value, or let employees keep items such as personal computers.

If sufficient National Insurance Contributions (NICs) have been made, employees are entitled to unemployment benefit of £45.45 a week for up to a year. The benefit is taxable, but is unaffected by the

claimant's savings or a partner's earnings.

The right to unemployment benefit may be prejudiced if the employee has been dismissed for misconduct, or has left employment voluntarily. Entitlement may also be affected by the size of any payment in lieu of notice.

Those who have not made sufficient NICs may be eligible for income support and help with interest payments on a mortgage, at present, of up to £125,000. Combined savings of a claimant and any partner must not exceed £8,000. Savings between £3,000 and £8,000 affect the benefit paid. Freeline Social Security offers advice on 0800 666555.

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11/1/2

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STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO			WINN-DIXIE LIFE		
Standard Life Assurance Co			Winn-Dixie Life		
Edinburgh, ERIK 2K2			Tampa, FL 33602		
STOCK LISTING			STOCK LISTING		
Company	1992	1991	Company	1992	1991
Assets	270.10	264.20	Assets	1,646.4	1,646.4
Liabilities	171.30	161.30	Liabilities	1,090.0	1,090.0
Equity	98.80	102.90	Equity	556.4	556.4
Income	19.20	17.10	Income	52.2	51.3
Expenses	4.10	3.50	Expenses	27.0	26.7
Profit	15.10	13.60	Profit	25.2	24.6
Dividends	3.00	2.10	Dividends	1.20	1.10
Assets	270.10	264.20	Assets	1,646.4	1,646.4
Liabilities	171.30	161.30	Liabilities	1,090.0	1,090.0
Equity	98.80	102.90	Equity	556.4	556.4
Income	19.20	17.10	Income	52.2	51.3
Expenses	4.10	3.50	Expenses	27.0	26.7
Profit	15.10	13.60	Profit	25.2	24.6
Dividends	3.00	2.10	Dividends	1.20	1.10
Assets	270.10	264.20	Assets	1,646.4	1,646.4
Liabilities	171.30	161.30	Liabilities	1,090.0	1,090.0
Equity	98.80	102.90	Equity	556.4	556.4
Income	19.20	17.10	Income	52.2	51.3
Expenses	4.10	3.50	Expenses	27.0	26.7
Profit	15.10	13.60	Profit	25.2	24.6
Dividends	3.00	2.10	Dividends	1.20	1.10
Assets	270.10	264.20	Assets	1,646.4	1,646.4
Liabilities	171.30	161.30	Liabilities	1,090.0	1,090.0
Equity	98.80	102.90	Equity	556.4	556.4
Income	19.20	17.10	Income	52.2	51.3
Expenses	4.10	3.50	Expenses	27.0	26.7
Profit	15.10	13.60	Profit	25.2	24.6
Dividends	3.00	2.10	Dividends	1.20	1.10
Assets	270.10	264.20	Assets	1,646.4	1,646.4
Liabilities	171.30	161.30	Liabilities	1,090.0	1,090.0
Equity	98.80	102.90	Equity	556.4	556.4
Income	19.20	17.10	Income	52.2	51.3
Expenses	4.10	3.50	Expenses	27.0	26.7
Profit	15.10	13.60	Profit	25.2	24.6
Dividends	3.00	2.10	Dividends	1.20	1.10
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Profit	15.10	13.60	Profit	25.2	24.6
Dividends	3.00	2.10	Dividends	1.20	1.10
Assets	270.10	264.20	Assets	1,646.4	1,646.4
Liabilities	171.30	161.30	Liabilities	1,090.0	1,090.0
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Assets	270.10	264.20	Assets	1,646.4	1,646.4
Liabilities	171.30	161.30	Liabilities	1,090.0	1,090.0
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Profit	15.10	13.60	Profit	25.2	24.6
Dividends	3.00	2.10	Dividends	1.20	1.10
Assets	270.10	264.20	Assets	1,646.4	1,646.4
Liabilities	171.30	161.30	Liabilities	1,090.0	1,090.0

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Exposed to new tax charge on estate-planning arrangements

From Mr C. Scott-Hopkins
Sir, It was announced last week by the Government that charities would escape controversial new rules to tax interest-free loans. However, this still leaves individuals exposed to an entirely new tax charge on estate-planning arrangements.

Popular in recent years because of their flexibility, with effect from the next tax year, 1995-96, under the guise of "simplification" and "tax neutrality" the Inland Revenue intends to tax an interest-free loan as if it were income bearing.

Ironically, this is nothing to do with Inheritance Tax. For someone who made a £50,000 interest-free loan to their children under trust this will mean payment of £1,000 at 25 per cent tax, or £1,600 at 40 per cent in 1995-96 at the "official rate" of 8 per cent, compared with no tax under the current rules.

Many of these plans involved insurance bonds where the underlying income is already taxed by the insurance company so, in effect, we have the concept of "double taxation". In most cases, the loan is repaid to the settlor at the rate of 5 per cent each year and this new measure will result in an equivalent "tax rate" of 40 per cent to the 25 per cent taxpayer and 64 per cent to the

40 per cent taxpayer. It is now clear that the Revenue wants to tax interest-free loans where trusts are involved. I suggest the correct way of doing so is to apply the proposed new legislation to all loans set up on and after the November 30 Budget day. To batter something set up in good faith under the law smacks of retrospective. In some cases, these plans date back to the Capital Transfer Tax regime. It is estimated that "simplification" will affect some £500 million of outstanding loans with £10 million of additional tax starting next year.

I urge every victim of this unprecedented Revenue attack to write to their MP. Labour did not act with retrospective effect when it imposed a tax charge on taking withdrawals above a certain level from an insurance bond in both 1968 and 1975. One would expect the Conservatives to act honourably when this clause is debated at the committee stage. After all, they say they are the party of low taxation.

C. SCOTT-HOPKINS,
Towry Law Financial Planning Limited,
Southern Division,
Towry Law House,
57 High Street,
Windsor, Berkshire.

Mortgage borrowers are being offered loyalty incentives, Karen Murray says

Lenders turn on charm

In addition to the 4-7 discount...
you get ½ a pound of Jelly Babies
and you can call me Bert



The beleaguered house market is changing the attitude of banks and building societies towards their existing borrowers. Once the Cinderellas of the customer list, they are now the subject of a charm offensive.

In the past, lenders devised their best deals to entice new borrowers. But with new business hard to come by and remortgaging fast becoming the liveliest sector of the home loans market (it now accounts for more than three quarters of total mortgage sales), lenders have had a change of heart.

Many are realising that they must offer incentives to existing borrowers, or risk losing them to rivals waiting with offers such as cashbacks and large discounts. The trend implies that lenders are finally acknowledging the true worth of customers who pay on time and are not in arrears.

Particular attention is being focused on borrowers coming to the end of fixed-rate or discounted deals. At the end of the three-year or five-year period, borrowers are usually free to shop around for another low-priced mortgage. Here, we list the existing borrower offers announced to date. Other lenders must fol-

low, or risk further defections to rivals. Existing borrowers at the Woolwich who are moving house and who agree to have their next mortgage with the society, can get a discount of 4.2 per cent for a year if they have a deposit of less than 20 per cent. For those with a deposit of more than 20 per cent, the reduction rises to 4.7 per cent. Loyalty bonuses

are also available from the National Westminster, which offers a £400 cashback for existing customers who go to the bank for their next loan. The Halifax offers a £500 cashback. Customers who stay loyal to the Midland when they move, benefit from a discount of 1 per cent for 12 months. Skipton customers who stay put get a 0.1 per cent

discount if they pay by direct debit, bringing the current variable rate down to 5.39 per cent. Those who are moving house and have been in continuous employment for a year can get a special status discount of 0.15 per cent, in addition to any other discounts.

The society will also be more flexible on income ratios for those who take out a new mortgage. Other lures include £200 towards the valuation fee.

The Portman has introduced several schemes for existing borrowers, including premium rate sickness, accident and unemployment cover and low-rate personal loans. Mortgage holders can borrow between £2,000 and £15,000 over a five-year term at 9.9 per cent. Under the Portman's negative equity scheme, it will lend up to 100 per cent of the purchase price plus negative equity of £25,000. This is at the higher rate of 9.45 per cent for three years, one per centage point above its normal rate.

The society has a loyalty scheme for those who have saved for a minimum of six months. If they want a mortgage, they are offered a discount of 1.25 per cent for two years in addition to legal fees up to £400 and a free valuation.

Bank 'identity cards'

From Mrs Dorothy Box
Sir, Like J. Fox (Weekend Money Letters, February 4) and others, I have neither driving licence, passport nor other "open sesame" documents with which to prove my identity should I wish to open a new bank account. However, last October I shuffled some money from one type of savings to another. At Christmas, I received two cards from my bank. I shall simply present these as proof of my standing.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY BOX,
37 Mayfield Park,
Fishponds, Bristol.

Game of the name

From Mr Alan Paterson
Sir, Further to recent correspondence re the Woolwich, after taking my passport, National Insurance card, birth certificate and various forms of identification to open a new account at the Woolwich, it was to my surprise that the cashier opened an account for a Mr Alan Paterson who hadn't given her any identification. When I pointed this out to her, she said that she would change it the next day. However, a few days ago, Mr Alan Paterson received his first statement for his new Woolwich account.

So, opening an account is possible, but what is the point in being asked for all this identification if your name can't even be spelled correctly? Yours faithfully,
ALAN PATERSON,
63 Brenton Road,
Penna,
Wolverhampton.

STRICTLY LIMITED ISSUE

HTR Accelerated Income PEP

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HTR Accelerated Income PEP will be 100% invested in the Income Ordinary shares of HTR Income & Growth Split Trust PLC, a major new investment trust from Henderson Touche Remnant, leaders in investment trust management. The PEP is designed for investors looking for a high and rising income with capital growth prospects.

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The HTR UK Income & Growth investment team has an outstanding performance record as demonstrated opposite

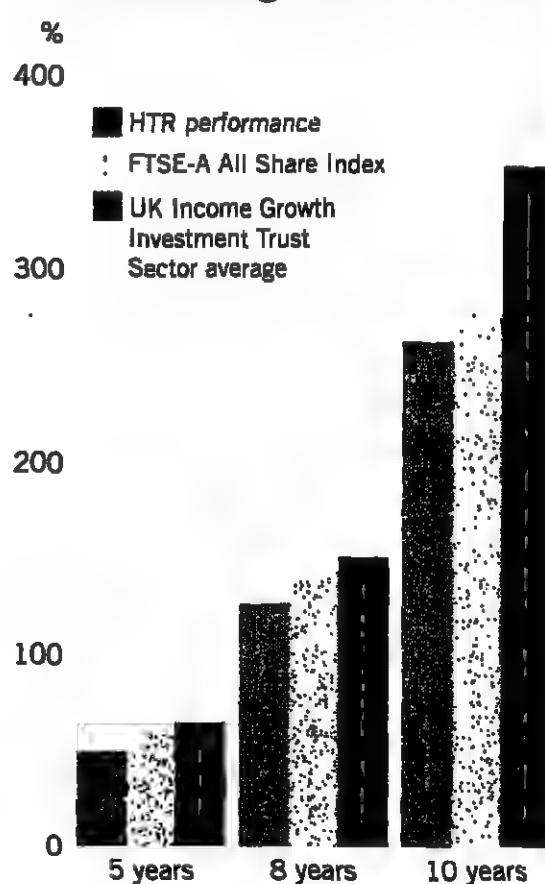
This PEP offers an opportunity to take advantage of a major new issue, with all returns free of tax. It is a strictly limited offer and must be closed to new investment after 8 March 1995. Register for full information today.



Henderson Touche Remnant Investment Trust Management Limited is an appointed representative of Henderson Financial Management Limited, member of IMRO, which is an associate company within Henderson Administration Group plc, of 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA. This advertisement which does not constitute an offer for shares has been approved by Henderson Financial Management Limited.

*Based on market conditions as at 6 February 1995. Chart source: performance figures are compiled by Airt Services Ltd to 30.11.94 showing NAV total return with net income reinvested. Past performance is no guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount invested. Taxes related to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will depend upon the circumstances of the investor.

Henderson Touche Remnant's Outstanding Track Record



The chart shows the average performance of the two UK Income Growth Investment Trusts managed by Henderson Touche Remnant - TR City of London Trust PLC and Lowland Investment Company plc - compared with their investment trust sector average and with the FTSE-A All Share Index, over 5, 8 and 10 years.

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Investors beat cautious path to South Africa

Sharon Colback
says many
projects could
absorb and
repay investment

In April, South Africans will review the most momentous year in their 300-year history when they celebrate the first anniversary of the peaceful transition to a government of national unity.

South Africa's first democratic elections were largely the result of world pressure in the form of economic sanctions and social, cultural and sporting isolation.

Now that the country is again a welcome member of the world community, institutional investors are being slow to follow punishment with reward and inject the billions in foreign currency needed for continued peace and economic survival.

The financial rand is putting a brake on investment. Introduced in 1985, it is a pool of funds that belongs to non-residents who trade it between themselves without affecting South Africa's foreign currency reserves. It trades at a discount to the commercial rand and the discrepancy between the two acts as a barometer to foreign perceptions of South Africa's political and economic health. For investors, a two-tier system indicates a weak economy with insufficient stability to depend on a single currency.

Before the elections, the gap between the two rands was as much as 40 per cent. Since then, it has narrowed to 11.2 per cent after an unfounded rumour last week that it was about to be scrapped. Chris Liebenberg, the Finance Minister, has hinted that it will be abolished when the gap has narrowed to 10 per cent.

Arnold Shapiro, senior portfolio manager with Old Mutual, one of South Africa's largest financial institutions, is optimistic about the country's growth potential. "The



Infrastructure schemes should prove attractive to investors

South African economy is still coming off a very low base. GDP grew by around two per cent in 1994, and it is expected to do even better in 1995.

Before the elections, the international debt embargo stopped the Government borrowing to finance debt. We had to run a current account surplus. Most emerging market countries are net borrowers of capital. We were a net exporter of capital. The economic surpluses have been removed since last April and there is every prospect that the economy will grow strongly.

Certainly, there are many projects that could absorb and repay investment. The Government's Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), once it receives the finance it needs to get into its stride, has ambitious aims to bridge the educational and material gap between the white and black populations. The

main RDP thrust, and the one that will be most attractive to investors, is in the provision of basic infrastructure. Rapidly growing squatter camps encircle every town and occupy any available land in city centres.

One of President Mandela's election promises was to build a million lower-income housing units within five years. Although few believe the target can be achieved, he needs to make a serious show if he is to retain his loyal, and, at present patient, following.

The Johannesburg All-Share Index mirrored the relief at the election, rising by about 20 per cent between January and the end of last year. This was not enough to attract large numbers of institutional investors, but there is good reason to suppose they will soon feel the need to invest.

From April, two influential

emerging market indices will include South Africa for the first time. The International Finance Corporation has given the country a 13 per cent weighting and Morgan Stanley Capital Index has given 9 per cent. Once the market recovers from its recent fall, pension and insurance fund trustees will want to see it in their portfolios. Sheer weight of foreign institutional money is expected to push the market up later in the year.

After such a strong surge last year, the market dropped back heavily last month, falling 16.1 per cent. This was partly because of overheating and partly a knock-on effect from Mexico's crisis.

The three South African funds launched in the UK last year rewarded investors handsomely before the market fell. Old Mutual launched its £54.1 million investment trust, Old Mutual South Africa (OMSA) on July 8, 1994. Between the launch and the trust's last published figures on November 30, the net asset value of OMSA rose 15.4 per cent. The All-Share index rose 6.49 per cent.

The trust invests in industrial shares and Mr Shapiro says that, when gold and commodities are having a strong run, OMSA may lag behind those tilted towards resources. Although optimistic gold analysts hope that the gold price will average \$400, the 11.5 per cent rise on last year's prices will be offset by a similar rise in costs. At best, gold shares can be expected to mark time.

Credit Suisse South Africa Fund, launched on July 15, 1994, and now valued at about £4 million, rose by 19.01 per cent on an offer-to-offer basis up to December 30, 1994. The All-Share index rose by 15.1 per cent in sterling terms during the same period. Against the market drop of 16.1 per cent in January, the fund fell 12.8 per cent, but it is still up 3.9 per cent since its launch. Save & Prosper Southern Africa Fund, valued on January 31 at £7.8 million, has risen 3.34 per cent since its launch on October 1 last year. Until the market fell, it had risen by over 13 per cent.

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BANKS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
330	328	Barclays Bank	329.50	+0.50	+0.15
325	323	Bank of Scotland	324.00	+0.50	+0.15
320	318	Bank of Ireland	319.00	+0.50	+0.15
315	313	Bank of Wales	314.00	+0.50	+0.15
310	308	Bank of England	309.00	+0.50	+0.15
305	303	Bank of Cyprus	304.00	+0.50	+0.15
300	298	Bank of Greece	299.00	+0.50	+0.15
295	293	Bank of Spain	294.00	+0.50	+0.15
290	288	Bank of Portugal	289.00	+0.50	+0.15
285	283	Bank of France	284.00	+0.50	+0.15
280	278	Bank of Italy	279.00	+0.50	+0.15
275	273	Bank of Germany	274.00	+0.50	+0.15
270	268	Bank of Netherlands	269.00	+0.50	+0.15
265	263	Bank of Belgium	264.00	+0.50	+0.15
260	258	Bank of Luxembourg	259.00	+0.50	+0.15
255	253	Bank of Austria	254.00	+0.50	+0.15
250	248	Bank of Switzerland	249.00	+0.50	+0.15
245	243	Bank of Sweden	244.00	+0.50	+0.15
240	238	Bank of Denmark	239.00	+0.50	+0.15
235	233	Bank of Norway	234.00	+0.50	+0.15
230	228	Bank of Finland	229.00	+0.50	+0.15
225	223	Bank of Iceland	224.00	+0.50	+0.15
220	218	Bank of Ireland	219.00	+0.50	+0.15
215	213	Bank of Wales	214.00	+0.50	+0.15
210	208	Bank of England	209.00	+0.50	+0.15
205	203	Bank of Cyprus	204.00	+0.50	+0.15
200	198	Bank of Greece	199.00	+0.50	+0.15
195	193	Bank of Spain	194.00	+0.50	+0.15
190	188	Bank of Portugal	189.00	+0.50	+0.15
185	183	Bank of France	184.00	+0.50	+0.15
180	178	Bank of Italy	179.00	+0.50	+0.15
175	173	Bank of Germany	174.00	+0.50	+0.15
170	168	Bank of Netherlands	169.00	+0.50	+0.15
165	163	Bank of Belgium	164.00	+0.50	+0.15
160	158	Bank of Luxembourg	159.00	+0.50	+0.15
155	153	Bank of Austria	154.00	+0.50	+0.15
150	148	Bank of Switzerland	149.00	+0.50	+0.15
145	143	Bank of Sweden	144.00	+0.50	+0.15
140	138	Bank of Denmark	139.00	+0.50	+0.15
135	133	Bank of Norway	134.00	+0.50	+0.15
130	128	Bank of Finland	129.00	+0.50	+0.15
125	123	Bank of Iceland	124.00	+0.50	+0.15
120	118	Bank of Ireland	119.00	+0.50	+0.15
115	113	Bank of Wales	114.00	+0.50	+0.15
110	108	Bank of England	109.00	+0.50	+0.15
105	103	Bank of Cyprus	104.00	+0.50	+0.15
100	98	Bank of Greece	99.00	+0.50	+0.15
95	93	Bank of Spain	94.00	+0.50	+0.15
90	88	Bank of Portugal	89.00	+0.50	+0.15
85	83	Bank of France	84.00	+0.50	+0.15
80	78	Bank of Italy	79.00	+0.50	+0.15
75	73	Bank of Germany	74.00	+0.50	+0.15
70	68	Bank of Netherlands	69.00	+0.50	+0.15
65	63	Bank of Belgium	64.00	+0.50	+0.15
60	58	Bank of Luxembourg	59.00	+0.50	+0.15
55	53	Bank of Austria	54.00	+0.50	+0.15
50	48	Bank of Switzerland	49.00	+0.50	+0.15
45	43	Bank of Sweden	44.00	+0.50	+0.15
40	38	Bank of Denmark	39.00	+0.50	+0.15
35	33	Bank of Norway	34.00	+0.50	+0.15
30	28	Bank of Finland	29.00	+0.50	+0.15
25	23	Bank of Iceland	24.00	+0.50	+0.15
20	18	Bank of Ireland	19.00	+0.50	+0.15
15	13	Bank of Wales	14.00	+0.50	+0.15
10	8	Bank of England	9.00	+0.50	+0.15
5	3	Bank of Cyprus	4.00	+0.50	+0.15
0	0	Bank of Greece	1.00	+0.50	+0.15

DISTRIBUTORS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
110	108	British Airways	109.00	+0.50	+0.45
105	103	British Airways	104.00	+0.50	+0.45
100	98	British Airways	99.00	+0.50	+0.45
95	93	British Airways	94.00	+0.50	+0.45
90	88	British Airways	89.00	+0.50	+0.45
85	83	British Airways	84.00	+0.50	+0.45
80	78	British Airways	79.00	+0.50	+0.45
75	73	British Airways	74.00	+0.50	+0.45
70	68	British Airways	69.00	+0.50	+0.45
65	63	British Airways	64.00	+0.50	+0.45
60	58	British Airways	59.00	+0.50	+0.45
55	53	British Airways	54.00	+0.50	+0.45
50	48	British Airways	49.00	+0.50	+0.45
45	43	British Airways	44.00	+0.50	+0.45
40	38	British Airways	39.00	+0.50	+0.45
35	33	British Airways	34.00	+0.50	+0.45
30	28	British Airways	29.00	+0.50	+0.45
25	23	British Airways	24.00	+0.50	+0.45
20	18	British Airways	19.00	+0.50	+0.45
15	13	British Airways	14.00	+0.50	+0.45
10	8	British Airways	9.00	+0.50	+0.45
5	3	British Airways	4.00	+0.50	+0.45
0	0	British Airways	1.00	+0.50	+0.45

BREWERIES

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
110	108	British Airways	109.00	+0.50	+0.45
105	103	British Airways	104.00	+0.50	+0.45
100	98	British Airways	99.00	+0.50	+0.45
95	93	British Airways	94.00	+0.50	+0.45
90	88	British Airways	89.00	+0.50	+0.45
85	83	British Airways	84.00	+0.50	+0.45
80	78	British Airways	79.00	+0.50	+0.45
75	73	British Airways	74.00	+0.50	+0.45
70	68	British Airways	69.00	+0.50	+0.45
65	63	British Airways	64.00	+0.50	+0.45
60	58	British Airways	59.00	+0.50	+0.45
55	53	British Airways	54.00	+0.50	+0.45
50	48	British Airways	49.00	+0.50	+0.45
45	43	British Airways	44.00	+0.50	+0.45
40	38	British Airways	39.00	+0.50	+0.45
35	33	British Airways	34.00	+0.50	+0.45
30	28	British Airways	29.00	+0.50	+0.45
25	23	British Airways	24.00	+0.50	+0.45
20	18	British Airways	19.00	+0.50	+0.45
15	13	British Airways	14.00	+0.50	+0.45
10	8	British Airways	9.00	+0.50	+0.45
5	3	British Airways	4.00	+0.50	+0.45
0	0	British Airways	1.00	+0.50	+0.45

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
110	108	British Airways	109.00	+0.50	+0.45
105	103	British Airways	104.00	+0.50	+0.45
100	98	British Airways	99.00	+0.50	+0.45
95	93	British Airways	94.00	+0.50	+0.45
90	88	British Airways	89.00	+0.50	+0.45
85	83	British Airways	84.00	+0.50	+0.45
80	78	British Airways	79.00	+0.50	+0.45
75	73	British Airways	74.00	+0.50	+0.45
70	68	British Airways	69.00	+0.50	+0.45
65	63	British Airways	64.00	+0.50	+0.45
60	58	British Airways	59.00	+0.50	+0.45
55	53	British Airways	54.00	+0.50	+0.45
50	48	British Airways	49.00	+0.50	+0.45
45	43	British Airways	44.00	+0.50	+0.45
40	38	British Airways	39.00	+0.50	+0.45
35	33	British Airways	34.00	+0.50	+0.45
30	28	British Airways	29.00	+0.50	+0.45
25	23	British Airways	24.00	+0.50	+0.45
20	18	British Airways	19.00	+0.50	+0.45
15	13	British Airways	14.00	+0.50	+0.45
10	8	British Airways	9.00	+0.50	+0.45
5	3	British Airways	4.00	+0.50	+0.45
0	0	British Airways	1.00	+0.50	+0.45

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
110	108	British Airways	109.00	+0.50	+0.45
105	103	British Airways	104.00	+0.50	+0.45
100	98	British Airways	99.00	+0.50	+0.45
95	93	British Airways	94.00	+0.50	+0.45
90	88	British Airways	89.00	+0.50	+0.45
85	83	British Airways	84.00	+0.50	+0.45
80	78	British Airways	79.00	+0.50	+0.45
75	73	British Airways	74.00	+0.50	+0.45
70	68	British Airways	69.00	+0.50	+0.45
65	63	British Airways	64.00	+0.50	+0.45
60	58	British Airways	59.00	+0.50	+0.45
55	53	British Airways	54.00	+0.50	+0.45
50	48	British Airways	49.00	+0.50	+0.45
45	43	British Airways	44.00	+0.50	+0.45
40	38	British Airways	39.00	+0.50	+0.45
35	33	British Airways	34.00	+0.50	+0.45
30	28	British Airways	29.00	+0.50	+0.45
25	23	British Airways	24.00	+0.50	+0.45
20	18	British Airways	19.00	+0.50	+0.45
15	13	British Airways	14.00	+0.50	+0.45
10	8	British Airways	9.00	+0.50	+0.45
5	3	British Airways	4.00	+0.50	+0.45
0	0	British Airways	1.00	+0.50	+0.45

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
110	108	British Airways	109.00	+0.50	+0.45
105	103	British Airways	104.00	+0.50	+0.45
100	98	British Airways	99.00	+0.50	+0.45
95	93	British Airways	94.00	+0.50	+0.45
90	88	British Airways	89.00	+0.50	+0.45
85	83	British Airways	84.00	+0.50	+0.45
80	78	British Airways	79.00	+0.50	+0.45
75	73	British Airways	74.00	+0.50	+0.45
70	68	British Airways	69.00	+0.50	+0.45
65	63	British Airways	64.00	+0.50	+0.45
60	58	British Airways	59.00	+0.50	+0.45
55	53	British Airways	54.00	+0.50	+0.45
50	48	British Airways	49.00	+0.50	+0.45
45	43	British Airways	44.00	+0.50	+0.45
40	38	British Airways	39.00	+0.50	+0.45
35	33	British Airways	34.00	+0.50	+0.45
30	28	British Airways	29.00	+0.50	+0.45
25	23	British Airways	24.00	+0.50	+0.45
20	18	British Airways	19.00	+0.50	+0.45
15	13	British Airways	14.00	+0.50	+0.45
10	8	British Airways	9.00	+0.50	+0.45
5	3	British Airways	4.00	+0.50	+0.45
0	0	British Airways	1.00	+0.50	+0.45

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

680	400	All Points	680	+ 3	83	12.1
670	390	Alcatel & Hitech	670	+ 1	83	12.1
660	380	Albert Heijn	660	+ 1	83	12.1
650	370	Barco Foto	650	+ 1	83	12.1
640	360	Barco Foto	640	+ 1	83	12.1
630	350	Barco Foto	630	+ 1	83	12.1
620	340	Barco Foto	620	+ 1	83	12.1
610	330	Barco Foto	610	+ 1	83	12.1
600	320	Barco Foto	600	+ 1	83	12.1
590	310	Barco Foto	590	+ 1	83	12.1
580	300	Barco Foto	580	+ 1	83	12.1
570	290	Barco Foto	570	+ 1	83	12.1
560	280	Barco Foto	560	+ 1	83	12.1
550	270	Barco Foto	550	+ 1	83	12.1
540	260	Barco Foto	540	+ 1	83	12.1
530	250	Barco Foto	530	+ 1	83	12.1
520	240	Barco Foto	520	+ 1	83	12.1
510	230	Barco Foto	510	+ 1	83	12.1
500	220	Barco Foto	500	+ 1	83	12.1
490	210	Barco Foto	490	+ 1	83	12.1
480	200	Barco Foto	480	+ 1	83	12.1
470	190	Barco Foto	470	+ 1	83	12.1
460	180	Barco Foto	460	+ 1	83	12.1
450	170	Barco Foto	450	+ 1	83	12.1
440	160	Barco Foto	440	+ 1	83	12.1
430	150	Barco Foto	430	+ 1	83	12.1
420	140	Barco Foto	420	+ 1	83	12.1
410	130	Barco Foto	410	+ 1	83	12.1
400	120	Barco Foto	400	+ 1	83	12.1
390	110	Barco Foto	390	+ 1	83	12.1
380	100	Barco Foto	380	+ 1	83	12.1
370	90	Barco Foto	370	+ 1	83	12.1
360	80	Barco Foto	360	+ 1	83	12.1
350	70	Barco Foto	350	+ 1	83	12.1
340	60	Barco Foto	340	+ 1	83	12.1
330	50	Barco Foto	330	+ 1	83	12.1
320	40	Barco Foto	320	+ 1	83	12.1
310	30	Barco Foto	310	+ 1	83	12.1
300	20	Barco Foto	300	+ 1	83	12.1
290	10	Barco Foto	290	+ 1	83	12.1
280	0	Barco Foto	280	+ 1	83	12.1
270	-10	Barco Foto	270	+ 1	83	12.1
260	-20	Barco Foto	260	+ 1	83	12.1
250	-30	Barco Foto	250	+ 1	83	12.1
240	-40	Barco Foto	240	+ 1	83	12.1
230	-50	Barco Foto	230	+ 1	83	12.1
220	-60	Barco Foto	220	+ 1	83	12.1
210	-70	Barco Foto	210	+ 1	83	12.1
200	-80	Barco Foto	200	+ 1	83	12.1
190	-90	Barco Foto	190	+ 1	83	12.1
180	-100	Barco Foto	180	+ 1	83	12.1
170	-110	Barco Foto	170	+ 1	83	12.1
160	-120	Barco Foto	160	+ 1	83	12.1
150	-130	Barco Foto	150	+ 1	83	12.1
140	-140	Barco Foto	140	+ 1	83	12.1
130	-150	Barco Foto	130	+ 1	83	12.1
120	-160	Barco Foto	120	+ 1	83	12.1
110	-170	Barco Foto	110	+ 1	83	12.1
100	-180	Barco Foto	100	+ 1	83	12.1
90	-190	Barco Foto	90	+ 1	83	12.1
80	-200	Barco Foto	80	+ 1	83	12.1
70	-210	Barco Foto	70	+ 1	83	12.1
60	-220	Barco Foto	60	+ 1	83	12.1
50	-230	Barco Foto	50	+ 1	83	12.1
40	-240	Barco Foto	40	+ 1	83	12.1
30	-250	Barco Foto	30	+ 1	83	12.1
20	-260	Barco Foto	20	+ 1	83	12.1
10	-270	Barco Foto	10	+ 1	83	12.1
0	-280	Barco Foto	0	+ 1	83	12.1
-10	-290	Barco Foto	-10	+ 1	83	12.1
-20	-300	Barco Foto	-20	+ 1	83	12.1
-30	-310	Barco Foto	-30	+ 1	83	12.1
-40	-320	Barco Foto	-40	+ 1	83	12.1
-50	-330	Barco Foto	-50	+ 1	83	12.1
-60	-340	Barco Foto	-60	+ 1	83	12.1
-70	-350	Barco Foto	-70	+ 1	83	12.1
-80	-360	Barco Foto	-80	+ 1	83	12.1
-90	-370	Barco Foto	-90	+ 1	83	12.1
-100	-380	Barco Foto	-100	+ 1	83	12.1
-110	-390	Barco Foto	-110	+ 1	83	12.1
-120	-400	Barco Foto	-120	+ 1	83	12.1
-130	-410	Barco Foto	-130	+ 1	83	12.1
-140	-420	Barco Foto	-140	+ 1	83	12.1
-150	-430	Barco Foto	-150	+ 1	83	12.1
-160	-440	Barco Foto	-160	+ 1	83	12.1
-170	-450	Barco Foto	-170	+ 1	83	12.1
-180	-460	Barco Foto	-180	+ 1	83	12.1
-190	-470	Barco Foto	-190	+ 1	83	12.1
-200	-480	Barco Foto	-200	+ 1	83	12.1
-210	-490	Barco Foto	-210	+ 1	83	12.1
-220	-500	Barco Foto	-220	+ 1	83	12.1
-230	-510	Barco Foto	-230	+ 1	83	12.1
-240	-520	Barco Foto	-240	+ 1	83	12.1
-250	-530	Barco Foto	-250	+ 1	83	12.1
-260	-540	Barco Foto	-260	+ 1	83	12.1
-270	-550	Barco Foto	-270	+ 1	83	12.1
-280	-560	Barco Foto	-280	+ 1	83	12.1
-290	-570	Barco Foto	-290	+ 1	83	12.1
-300	-580	Barco Foto	-300	+ 1	83	12.1
-310	-590	Barco Foto	-310	+ 1	83	12.1
-320	-600	Barco Foto	-320	+ 1	83	12.1
-330	-610	Barco Foto	-330	+ 1	83	12.1
-340	-620	Barco Foto	-340	+ 1	83	12.1
-350	-630	Barco Foto	-350	+ 1	83	12.1
-360	-640	Barco Foto	-360	+ 1	83	12.1
-370	-650	Barco Foto	-370	+ 1	83	12.1
-380	-660	Barco Foto	-380	+ 1	83	12.1
-390	-670	Barco Foto	-390	+ 1	83	12.1
-400	-680	Barco Foto	-400	+ 1	83	12.1
-410	-690	Barco Foto	-410	+ 1	83	12.1
-420	-700	Barco Foto	-420	+ 1	83	12.1
-430	-710	Barco Foto	-430	+ 1	83	12.1
-440	-720	Barco Foto	-440	+ 1	83	12.1
-450	-730	Barco Foto	-450	+ 1	83	12.1
-460	-740	Barco Foto	-460	+ 1	83	12.1
-470	-750	Barco Foto	-470	+ 1	83	12.1
-480	-760	Barco Foto	-480	+ 1	83	12.1
-490	-770	Barco Foto	-490	+ 1	83	12.1
-500	-780	Barco Foto	-500	+ 1	83	12.1
-510	-790	Barco Foto	-510	+ 1	83	12.1
-520	-800	Barco Foto	-520	+ 1	83	12.1
-530	-810	Barco Foto	-530	+ 1	83	12.1
-540	-820	Barco Foto	-540	+ 1	83	12.1
-550	-830	Barco Foto	-550	+ 1	83	12.1
-560	-840	Barco Foto	-560	+ 1	83	12.1
-570	-850	Barco Foto	-570	+ 1	83	12.1
-580	-860	Barco Foto	-580	+ 1	83	12.1
-590	-870	Barco Foto	-590	+ 1	83	12.1
-600	-880	Barco Foto	-600	+ 1	83	12.1
-610	-890	Barco Foto	-610	+ 1	83	12.1
-620	-900	Barco Foto	-620	+ 1	83	12.1
-630	-910	Barco Foto	-630	+ 1	83	12.1
-640	-920	Barco Foto	-640	+ 1	83	12.1
-650	-930	Barco Foto	-650	+ 1	83	12.1
-660	-940	Barco Foto	-660	+ 1	83	12.1
-670	-950	Barco Foto	-670	+ 1	83	12.1
-680	-960	Barco Foto	-680	+ 1	83	12.1
-690	-970	Barco Foto	-690	+ 1	83	12.1
-700	-980	Barco Foto	-700	+ 1	83	12.1
-710	-990	Barco Foto	-710	+ 1	83	12.1
-720	-1000	Barco Foto	-720	+ 1	83	12.1
-730	-1010	Barco Foto	-730	+ 1	83	12.1
-740	-1020	Barco Foto	-740	+ 1	83	12.1
-750	-1030	Barco Foto	-750	+ 1	83	12.1
-760	-1040	Barco Foto	-760	+ 1	83	12.1
-770	-1050	Barco Foto	-770	+ 1	83	12.1
-780	-1060	Barco Foto	-780	+ 1	83	12.1
-790	-1070	Barco Foto	-790	+ 1	83	12.1
-800	-1080	Barco Foto	-800	+ 1	83	12.1
-810	-1090	Barco Foto	-810	+ 1	83	12.1
-820	-1100	Barco Foto	-820	+ 1	83	12.1
-830	-1110	Barco Foto	-830	+ 1	83	12.1
-840	-1120	Barco Foto	-840	+ 1	83	12.1
-850	-1130	Barco Foto	-850	+ 1	83	12.1
-860	-1140	Barco Foto	-860	+ 1	83	12.1
-870	-1150	Barco Foto	-870	+ 1	83	12.1
-880	-1160	Barco Foto	-880	+ 1	83	12.1
-890	-1170	Barco Foto	-890	+ 1	83	12.1
-900	-1180	Barco Foto	-900	+ 1	83	12.1
-910	-1190	Barco Foto	-910	+ 1	83	12.1
-920	-1200	Barco Foto	-920	+ 1	83	12.1
-930	-1210	Barco Foto	-930	+ 1	83	12.1
-940	-1220	Barco Foto	-940	+ 1	83	12.1
-950	-1230	Barco Foto	-950	+ 1	83	12.1
-960	-1240	Barco Foto	-960	+ 1	83	12.1
-970	-1250	Barco Foto	-970	+ 1	83	12.1
-980	-1260	Barco Foto	-980	+ 1	83	12.1
-990	-1270	Barco Foto	-990	+ 1	83	12.1
-1000	-1280	Barco Foto	-1000	+ 1	83	12.1
-1010	-1290	Barco Foto	-1010	+ 1	83	12.1
-1020	-1300	Barco Foto	-1020	+ 1	83	12.1
-1030	-1310	Barco Foto	-1030	+ 1	83	12.1
-1040	-1320	Barco Foto	-1040	+ 1	83	12.1
-1050	-1330	Barco Foto	-1050	+ 1	83	12.1
-1060	-1340	Barco Foto	-1060	+ 1	83	12.1
-1070	-1350	Barco Foto	-1070	+ 1	83	12.1
-1080	-1360	Barco Foto	-1080	+ 1	83	12.1
-1090	-1370	Barco Foto	-1090	+ 1	83	12.1
-1100	-1380	Barco Foto	-1100	+ 1	83	12.1
-1110	-1390	Barco Foto	-1110	+ 1	83	12.1
-1120	-1400	Barco Foto	-1120	+ 1	83	12.1
-1130	-1410	Barco Foto	-1130	+ 1	83	12.1
-1140	-1420	Barco Foto	-1140	+ 1	83	12.1
-1150	-1430	Barco Foto	-1150	+ 1	83	12.1
-1160	-1440	Barco Foto	-1160	+ 1	83	12.1
-1170	-1450	Barco Foto	-1170	+ 1	83	12.1
-1180	-1460	Barco Foto	-1180	+ 1	83	12.1
-1190	-1470	Barco Foto	-1190	+ 1	83	12.1
-1200	-1480	Barco Foto	-1200	+ 1	83	12.1
-1210	-1490	Barco Foto	-1210	+ 1	83	12.1
-1220	-1500	Barco Foto	-1220	+ 1	83	12.1
-1230	-1510	Barco Foto	-1230	+ 1	83	12.1
-1240	-1520	Barco Foto	-1240	+ 1	83	12.1
-1250	-1530	Barco Foto	-1250	+ 1	83	12.1
-1260	-1540	Barco Foto	-1260	+ 1	83	12.1
-1270	-1550	Barco Foto	-1270	+ 1	83	12.1
-1280	-1560	Barco Foto	-1280	+ 1	83	12.1
-1290	-1570	Barco Foto	-1290	+ 1	83	12.1
-1300	-1580	Barco Foto	-1300	+ 1	83	12.1
-1310	-1590	Barco Foto	-1310	+ 1	83	12.1
-1320	-1600	Barco Foto	-1320	+ 1	83	12.1
-1330	-1610	Barco Foto	-1330	+ 1	83	12.1
-1340	-1620	Barco Foto	-1340	+ 1	83	12.1
-1350	-1630	Barco Foto	-1350	+ 1	83	12.1
-1360	-1640	Barco Foto	-1360	+ 1	83	12.1
-1370	-1650	Barco Foto	-1370	+ 1	83	12.1
-1380	-1660	Barco Foto	-1380	+ 1	83	12.1
-1390	-1670	Barco Foto	-1390	+ 1	83	12.1
-1400	-1680					

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Registration
closes
Tuesday,
14 February.

Saturday portrait: Chris Boardman by Andrew Longmore

Speed king prepares for uphill struggle in pursuit of glory

The main square in Lille on a hot July afternoon. Children bathe in the fountain outside the arts museum, their parents watching idly. A commentary echoes through the tight streets, heralding the start of the 81st Tour de France. Today is the prologue, a 7.2km time-trial, good for sponsors, but knockabout stuff for the main contenders, entertaining small talk before the dealing begins. There is silence, then a shout from the commentator, rising to a scream. "Chris Boardman." The last two syllables are accented equally, the "e" of the first stretched to breaking.

The children stop playing for a moment, spectators wake from their reverie and peer down the Boulevard de la Liberté at a single figure, dressed in the light blue and white of the Gan team, thrashing his way through the heat haze. The time, flashed up on the clock above the street, is impossible, nearly 30 seconds quicker than the leader.

As the rider crosses the line, Roger Legeay, the sardonic, chain-smoking manager of the Gan team, hugs his public relations officer in a spontaneous and comic embrace. The gamble has paid off. The rookie *rosbif* has delivered. Boardman, in his first day on *Le Tour*, has won the yellow jersey.

Eleven days later, as expected, Boardman left the Tour, the victim of inexperience as much as fatigue and the intense heat. But he had made enough of an impact to suggest that, within the next three years, the scene enacted in Lille could be transposed to the streets of Paris on the final day.

An Englishman winning the Tour de France? Apart from Boardman himself and Legeay, there are good judges who believe he has all the right qualities: strength, power, endurance, intelligence, determination. Legeay thinks Boardman could finish in the top ten this year, which would put him well ahead of schedule. Miguel Indurain, winner of the Tour for the past four years, ended his first two Tours in the dreaded broom-wagon, the bus which sweeps up the stragglers.

Tonight, Boardman will take a

detour from his chosen route in a 4,000-metre pursuit race against Tony Rominger, the world No 1, at the new national cycling centre in Manchester. In the wider scheme of the season, this is an irrelevant, if lucrative, sideshow, a return to roots, a reminder of the Olympic gold won three years ago in Barcelona on a supercubic bike beneath a space-age helmet.

But victory over the Swiss rider would do no harm to Boardman's morale as he faces up to the most arduous year of his career and provide reassurance that the man who shattered the world one-hour record — with a speed nearly two miles an hour faster than Boardman's own successful attempt in 1993 — has two arms and two legs, just like everybody else.

Boardman's prospects of becoming the first Englishman to win the

'To win the Tour de France, you need to be a jack of all trades, but master of none'

Tour hinge on a piece of machinery at the Bebington Oval Sports Centre on the Wirral where, in the absence of a suitable mountain on the Cheshire plains, he simulates the sort of numbing, relentless, labour he will endure in the Alps next summer. Forty-five minutes at 18kph on a 9 per cent gradient.

He has been tinkering with his riding position, sitting further back on his saddle, pulling at the handlebars rather than resting on them. He denies that it is a little late in life to be changing such fundamentals. "Everything is trainable," he says. He has studied videos of Indurain and Rominger, among others, to see how they do it, but he will adapt his own riding style, not copy theirs. One of Boardman's mottos is: "If you follow the guy in front, you will always finish second."

Boardman just needs to survive in the mountains, conserve his

energy and learn not to lose the time he should have won in the time-trials on the flat. "It is all a matter of compromise," he said.

"To win the Tour, you need to be a jack of all trades, but master of none." What perturbed him last year was that his pulse rate reached a mere 152 on climbs and he still suffered. Usually, he can maintain a rate of 175-180 for the duration of a tough time-trial.

This winter, Boardman, together with his long-standing coach, Peter Keen, a lecturer in sports science at the University of Brighton, has been using a power crank, a gadget which measures strain, power output, heart rate and speed to monitor what for cars is called torque. Boardman's torque at the top end is second to none; at the lower end, in his own words, he "gets a hammering".

It is partly a matter of experience, but the appliance of science to his own considerable natural talent has been at the heart of Boardman's success and it is attention to detail, this understanding of the workings of his body, that gives Boardman an even-money chance of completing the transformation from 40km track rider to 4,000km road racer, the equivalent of making Linford Christie run a marathon. By the summer, Boardman, 1.75m tall, will have trimmed his weight from 71 to 68 kilos; by next year, to 66.

So impressed has Legeay been with Boardman's training techniques, he has largely left him to work alone, which suits the Englishman's temperament as well as his homing instincts. Unlike the Irishmen, Stephen Roche and Sean Kelly, who both moved to the Continent, Boardman will be based in England.

He moved into a new house near Hoylake late last year, with his wife, Sally, and three young children, Edward, Harriet and George. Better to risk the suspicion of his team-mates than to leave the lanes where he first knew cycling on the back of his father's bike and where he began his career with the North Wirral Velo Club 13 years ago.

He is still involved with the club, helping with sponsorship and advice, approachable as he is with



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

fans and the press. Yet his instinct for standing out from the crowd extends beyond his physical ability. When Mike Burrows, a designer, was trying to sell his concept of a monobraded superbike in the Eighties, Boardman was the only one to give it a go.

The result of the experiment was a series of world records at the 4km pursuit in Barcelona, the first individual Olympic gold by a British rider since 1908 and vengeance for Boardman, whose

father, Keith, had narrowly missed selection for the 1964 Games. The press found the combination of British technical wizardry and cabaret-maker from Hazyard irresistible.

Boardman's Lotus bike briefly became a *cause célèbre* for the parlous state of British industry. But winning gold brought Boardman face-to-face with his own future. Either he could progress and turn professional or stay still and win another gold. With some

misgivings, because he admits to riding for the enjoyment of winning, not for the fun of it — "cycling is hard, it hurts and it's dangerous", he says — he chose the former and prepared himself for life on the chain gang.

Again, he took no chances. He broke the world one-hour record in Bordeaux the day the Tour hit town. Had he stood outside the town hall wearing his gold medal and a sandwich-board saying, "Come and get me", he could not

have advertised his services more explicitly.

Four stage wins during the season, three days in the yellow jersey and victory in the 4,000 metres pursuit world championships marked an exceptional first year as a professional. More will be expected this year, much more. Boardman, at 26, estimates he has learnt 35 per cent of what he needs to know to win the Tour. The rest might reflect on their chances if he ever completes his education.

O'Sullivan proves a match for old hand

BY PHIL YATES

IN SNOOKER it is not uncommon for the toroise to beat the hare. Terry Griffiths has utilised table craft, methodical precision and water-tight safety to beat many a young buck over the years but yesterday that was not enough.

The hare, in the form of Ronnie O'Sullivan, reached the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre by beating Griffiths 5-2.

O'Sullivan, attempting to supersede Stephen Hendry as the youngest winner in the 21-year history of the Masters, did not play with his customary fluency but Griffiths was unable to reproduce the form which saw him beat Steve Davis 5-3 in the previous round.

"I'm grafting but nothing's coming easy for me," O'Sullivan said. "The thing I've learnt this week is that good preparation is vital. I feel fresh and alert and that's helping me to think clearly."

Griffiths, winner of the 1980 Masters, wasted a number of early opportunities and O'Sullivan took a 3-1 lead with a break of 83 in the fourth. He added a run of 65 to capture the next and, although Griffiths kept the match alive by winning the sixth, his comeback stopped there.

O'Sullivan, who meets Hendry or Peter Ebdon in the semi-finals, believes that, although he is not at his peak, it is only a matter of being patient and sticking rigidly to the stricter practice regime he has adopted this year.

"It will come, it's just when. It's so easy to have a curry at 3 o'clock in the morning, get up feeling terrible and say you'll practise tomorrow, but tomorrow never comes. I don't want to be an also-ran," he said.

The composition of the other semi-final this afternoon was decided on Thursday evening when Jimmy White, playing well in bursts but still prone to inconsistency, beat James Wattana 5-3. White now meets John Higgins.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: J White (eng) 3-1 Wattana (Wales) 5-3; R O'Sullivan (eng) 3-1 Griffiths (Wales) 5-2.

Full-strength Wigan seeking to extend cup monopoly St Helens challenge the trend

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ALL the fervour and fanaticism stirred by meetings between Wigan and St Helens is strangely at odds with the predictability that has come to characterise the most famous rugby league rivalry, especially in the Challenge Cup.

On the way to winning the Silk Cut competition for the past seven seasons, Wigan have defeated St Helens on five occasions, including the 1989 and 1991 finals. If the trend is reversed in the televised fourth-round tie today, it will be the first time since 1977 that St Helens have overcome their neighbours in the cup.

Form and history conspire against St Helens and, with Wigan odds-on favourites at an astonishing 10-1 to maintain their cup monopoly, the bookmakers have instantly dismissed Saints' chances.

Shane Cooper is not quite as pessimistic. The St Helens captain has started in all five defeats during Wigan's Chal-

enge Cup reign. "No, I wouldn't have chosen them at this stage," he said. "But who would?"

This year, the entry of the first-division clubs is marked by contests between six of the seven leading sides, which is likely to leave half twiddling their thumbs until the Premiership in May, and Wigan rubbing their hands. Their crushing form has raised more awkward questions about standards elsewhere.

Ominously, Wigan can call upon their entire international contingent for one of the few occasions this season. Moreover, the return from injury of Andrew Farrell and Jason Robinson offers England further options for the European championship encounter with France next week.

With six first-choice players definitely absent, St Helens might gamble on the fitness of Scott Gibbs and Alan Hurne. Bobby Coulling, Steve Prescott and Jon Neill are back, but for the sledgehammer to be frustrated by the nut, the



Robinson: ready to play

visitors will need far more luck than they have had going for them of late.

Historically, Leeds and Bradford Northern have been a more evenly contested cup derby. Leeds, with due respect to the rest, are the only team capable of interrupting Wigan's momentum, although Bradford were the last side to win at Headingley, last April.

Garry Schofield passed a fitness test and is in an

unchanged Leeds line-up. Karl Fairbank is back for Bradford, as are Roger Simpson and Neil Summers.

For Warrington and Castleford, a flagging season hangs or falls by a tie rich in promise. Warrington had the edge last month, and the side that hammered Doncaster is unchanged. In spite of the return of Graham Steadman, injury and suspension continue to hamper Castleford, although John Joyner, the coach, signed a new contract yesterday.

Halifax and Salford have tricky ties at Huddersfield and Hunslet respectively, but Wakefield have the least enviable task at Whitehaven, who brought embarrassment to Featherstone Rovers in the Regal Trophy two months ago. And what of Beverley? The last amateur survivors (5,000-1 for the Trophy) encounter Batley (300-1) at Hull. Having previously won their feat of 36 years repeated by beating Highfield, a second professional scalp might be beyond them, but do not bet on it.

Capper and Bell pose threat to Firebrands

FOUR non-league clubs — Formby, Warwick, Hampstead and Westminster — feature in the five Hockey Association Cup fifth-round matches to be played tomorrow (Sydney Friskin writes).

Formby, third in the north league, follow up their 3-2 victory over Slough in the fourth round with a home match against Firebrands. Andy Forsshaw, the Formby goalkeeper and captain, believes that his side has a good chance. "If they score early, we could be in trouble but the longer we hold them off the better for us," he said. He regards his two resourceful forwards, Capper and Bell, as potential match-winners.

Warwick, who eliminated Trojans in the previous round, could be in trouble against the high-scoring Guildford, for whom Jennings scored five goals in the 9-3 league win against Slough

last week. Isa, with Robert and Graham Skinner to guide their fortunes, should get past Spencer, but Hampstead and Westminster could severely test Richmond. In the remaining match tomorrow, Barford Tigers are expected to overcome Neston.

Richard Dodds, captain of the 1988 Olympic gold medal-winning team, has been appointed chairman of the Great Britain men's Olympic Hockey Committee in place of Phil Appleyard, who is standing down after 4½ years.

Slough return to action in the women's national hockey league after a nine-week winter break undaunted by the prospect of two tough contests in the premier division and AEWHA Cup this weekend. The leaders meet third-placed Hightown in the league today and Sutton Coldfield in an all-premiership clash in the fourth round of the AEWHA Cup tomorrow.

England profit from spoils of Waugh

ENGLAND recovered from an early setback to defeat Poland 4-1 in a classification match at the Indira Gandhi hockey tournament in Delhi yesterday, and will now play Malaysia for fifth place (Sydney Friskin writes).

England owed much of their success to the performance of Waugh, who stamped his authority on the game and scored two brilliant goals. Hazlett, in deep defence, and Conway, in attack, were also impressive.

After 15 minutes, England fell behind when Poland converted a short corner. Luckies, who had replaced Mason in goal, blocked the first shot from Slowomir, but was well beaten on the follow-up by Kubisiak. Three minutes later, Crutchley levelled the score with a hard, well-placed shot.

Crutchley and Conway then combined well to put Poland under pressure and Waugh, diving forward to meet a

centre from the right, put England ahead in the twentieth minute.

Conway increased the lead from a short corner in the 42nd minute, and ten minutes later Hazlett set up a chance for Waugh to score his second goal and England's fourth.

With time almost up, England were awarded a penalty stroke for a dangerous charge by Markiewicz on Conway, but Crutchley shot straight at Pobota, the Poland goalkeeper, who made a comfortable save to deny England a fifth goal. Malaysia beat South Africa 4-3 to set up their meeting with England.

PLAY-OFFS: Fifth to eighth places: England 4 Poland 1; Malaysia 4 South Africa 3. SEMI-FINALS: Today: India v Australia; South Korea v Kazakhstan.

Mad Max adds chapter to these troubled times



SIMON BARNES On Saturday

AS L'AFFAIRE Cantona rumbles on, so America reels under the Vernon Maxwell Incident. Maxwell, stalwart of the Houston Rockets, and known as Mad Max for his volatile nature, set off in pursuit of a fan who had been abusing him throughout the game. Maxwell went 12 rows deep into the stands to find his man and punch him. Retribution has been swift: the National Basketball Association (NBA) has fined him \$20,000 and suspended him for ten games; this equals the highest fine in NBA history and is the second-longest suspension.

Maxwell's lawyer, Dick De Guerin, said: "If I'd have been there, I'd probably have cold-clucked him, too." Steve George, the man who was hit, has denied saying anything inflammatory, but Maxwell said that George

He don't appreciate good Parliamentary English



had taken for his subject Maxwell's stillborn daughter. "The heckling would have made Mother Theresa hit out," De Guerin said.

Expensive shot

American sports, and a regrettable and growing number of British events, tend to feature a "masculine", a man dressed up in a silly suit to become an anthropomorphic dog or lion or some other beast, or perhaps a wacky cartoon character. His job is to be loved by children, to crank up home support, to mock at the visiting opposition in a "lovable" sort of way. Don Jackson, coach of

the Cincinnati Cyclones, has been fined \$1,000 and suspended for ten games for hitting a mascot. The incident, surely more worthy of praise than censure, occurred when Jackson grew irritated at "Sir Slapshot", mascot of the Adanta Knights.

More trouble, this time at a basketball match in China. "This has never happened before in Nanjing," Li Chunxiang, president of the Jiangsu Basketball Association, said. Nanjing Army lost a four-point lead, and Liaoning went on to win, advancing to the semi-finals of the national championship. The crowd, incensed, bombarded the rivals with plastic bottles.

Over the top

Still more trouble: Kasey Keller, Millwall goalkeeper and United States international, was left somewhat shaken after the trouble at the match this week against Chelsea. "It's just not like that in America, where you get maybe the occasional streaker. But last night I saw elderly gentlemen absolutely screaming their heads off. I love the aspect of being emotional about football, but when it comes to hurting people, that's definitely going over the top."

Home worries

This column is still not clear of trouble for the week. I learn that the great footballer, Romario, has found more serious matters to worry him on his triumphant return to Brazil. Last week, I reported on his worries about his incipient baldness; he now faces two charges of affray, one against a middle-aged man in a restaurant, another connected with an under-age girl in a nightclub.

Little cheer

It had to happen: baseball strike, ice hockey strike, deep rumblings in basketball; and now the industrial might of the cheerleaders. The Buffalo Bills, cheerleaders for the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League (NFL), have won the legal right to establish their own union. There are 36 Jills in all, and they say they are mistreated by their managing company, which is a chain of fast-food restaurants. They want better working conditions, more pay, and a louder voice in managing their careers away from the football field. "We view ourselves as a sport, or at least as a very large industry," Nancy Bates, seven years a Jill, said. "We need to protect our interests. It's about time NFL cheerleaders did this." The Jills get \$25 for personal appearances, but they get only a free ticket for a friend as a reward for waving their pom-poms at games.

Youth policy

All is not lost. As Michael Atherton "implores" the selectors to support youth, so I hear about a deadly plot to put English cricket back on top. Lombards finance company has become involved in youth cricket, and one of its projects is an under-14 national coaching weekend at Lilleshall in April, to be attended by Keith Fletcher and Ray Illingworth (assuming that the team manager and chairman of selectors are still in a job). "We are going to scour England for a young Shane Warne," John Morgan, of Lombards, announced. The plot should meet Atherton's exacting demands for youth: the idea of confronting West Indies with a 13-year-old leg spinner could hardly be bettered.

Coca-Cola Cup semi-final puts first division's contrasting likely lads under the spotlight

Opposites attracted by lure of Wembley glory

Russell Kempson on
Joey Beauchamp, the
Swindon Town winger
who flew the nest

It was the most public of humiliations. Oxford United midfielder starlet joins West Ham United for £1 million and, only days later, realises the full implications. Too late. Quiet country boy endures big-city blues and national ridicule.

For Joey Beauchamp, the two-month episode has left its scars. It haunts him still, six months on, even though he is safely back in the family embrace in Oxford, where he was born, bred and would happily spend the rest of his life were it not for the footballing skills that have drawn suitors from afar.

At least playing for Swindon Town, who take on Bolton Wanderers in the first leg of their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final at the County Ground tomorrow, is closer to home, far from the maddening crowd of Upton Park that took him to the brink of despair. A 40-minute drive into leafy Wiltshire instead of two hours of stop-start angst around the M25 and into London E13, eventually.

Beauchamp, 23, had led a sheltered yet progressive existence at Oxford United, graduating from the club's Centre of Excellence into the first team, and still lived with his parents, Joe and Doreen, in the north of the city. He saw no reason for change.

But for West Ham's persistence, in June, after an initial rebuff the previous season, and the mighty lure of the FA Cup, Beauchamp's parents would have stayed put. Period. "Even though Oxford were relegated, I enjoyed it with them. Always had done," he said. "Swindon were interested but West Ham were desperate to get me."

"When I went up to see them, they asked me to sign there and then. I had to make a snap decision and was pressured into signing. They should have made sure I wanted to sign. They were the ones paying £1 million. I'm not the best at decision-making. When I'm under pressure, I just do things."

Beauchamp is instantly affable, albeit within a strange, distant haze, and talks in short, staccato bursts, the sentences trailing off as other images enter his mind. He chews his nails constantly, avoids eye contact and often appears like a little boy lost. Easy to persuade, difficult to penetrate. "Maybe I'm a bit glibbie, a bit naive sometimes," he said. "I knew almost as soon as I got home that I'd made the wrong



Beauchamp got caught up in big-city aggravation when he joined West Ham

choice. It was the wrong move at the wrong time. I couldn't sleep and thought I'd ruined my career, my life."

A single, traffic-choked journey through the usual M25 mayhem — "I'm not the greatest of travellers" — convinced him of his error. West Ham demanded he should move nearer the ground, a request he declined, and Swindon reaffirmed their earlier interest to end his stay after only a handful of pre-season matches.

His talent, though, has never been in doubt — predominantly left-footed, good balance, bewitching swerve. Maurice Evans, the former Oxford manager and now general manager, recalled how he signed Beauchamp, a 14-year-old schoolboy, in the face of unanimous opposition from his contemporaries. "They all reckoned he was too

quiet, a loser," Evans said. "Very quiet, yes; he's an introvert, never says a word. I don't expect his mum knows him, but he's got great ability. West Ham probably frightened him, with all those big-city boys taking the mickey."

Though back home, the mickey is still taken, and more. His father once received a death threat to pass on — Oxford followers are not keen on those who defect to Swindon. Yet behind a troubled facade lurks an agile mind, constantly calculating the odds.

He passed his maths O level a year early. He also writes computer games, and dared to insist on his £30,000 signing-on fee at West Ham, which was never paid. He likes a bet, too, though not to excess, and

owns a greyhound, Ruby Fire. "I like to get away from football when I'm not training or playing," he said.

Swindon's progress to the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals has materialised without a meeting with his former, brief employers. "Every cup draw, I thought: 'Oh God, please don't be West Ham,'" he said. Yet a possible return to Wembley, where he was a ball boy when Oxford won the Milk Cup final in 1986, provokes a rare outbreak of optimism.

"It was an unbelievable experience," he said. "The noise just hit you. We were watching the presentation of medals at the end, and I was thinking 'I'll be up there one day', when I turned around and saw the other lads had gone. I was standing all on my own." Typical Beauchamp, locked in another world. Fast and present.

Michael Henderson
says the rare talent of
Alan Stubbs is typical
of Bolton Wanderers

Last year, ripples this year, waves. Bolton Wanderers were everyone's darlings in 1994 when they turfed Everton, Arsenal and Aston Villa out of the FA Cup. Everyone admired their plumage. Alas, they lost their feathers and, too young a team for the long slog, they missed out on promotion to the FA Cup Premier League.

A season older, and wiser, they are two games from Wembley in the "other" cup, sponsored by Coca-Cola, and play the first leg of the semi-final at Swindon tomorrow. To prevent Bolton travelling to Wiltshire as leaders of the Endleigh Insurance League first division, Tranmere Rovers and Middlesbrough must win today.

Bolton reached the summit by walloping Wolverhampton Wanderers 5-1 at Burnden Park last Saturday. The scoreline may have been unrepresentative of a match that was more even but it was an outstanding performance, all the same. If it is true that "they play like this all the time", as Michael Watkinson, the Lancashire cricket captain, said, his tongue only partly in his cheek, then they would be promoted immediately on a show of hands.

Promotion is essential. Failure to go up would leave Bruce Rioch, the manager, vulnerable to the posh clubs who are known to lie in wait. There are also players such as Jason McAteer, the Anglo-Irish midfielder, and John McGinlay, who has supplied 15 goals this season. Alan Thompson, the skilful left-sided attacker, has turned heads. And there is Alan Stubbs, the elegant defender who is on the cusp of England recognition.

Stubbs, like McAteer, is from Merseyside, where Liverpool and Everton are measuring the progress of both players. Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United, the two leading sides in the Premiership, are also taking notes. One is desperate for a centre back of quality; the other is trying to replace Steve Bruce. Stubbs, just 23, appears to have the world at his feet.

Like his team-mates, he is enjoying his football too much to be sidetracked by speculation. "I get the impression that people like coming to watch us. Last year we got a bit carried away but this season there is more experience."

Rioch, who built a good footballing team at Middles-



Stubbs, an elegant young defender who is on the verge of England honours

brough out of the ruins of the receiver, is building another at Bolton. "We have a group of players who are comfortable on the ball. There are players who can run with it, can shoot, dribble and play to feet." Which adds up to a team of formidable talents.

If Stubbs stands out, it is partly because we are not used, in this country, to watching defenders who are, as Arrigo Sacchi observed of Franco Baresi, "on first-name terms with the ball". No wonder people have sought comparisons with Alan Hansen, the former Liverpool captain. Stubbs is that rarity, the footballing centre half.

Hansen almost joined Bolton in 1977. It is strange to think that Bolton's budget would not stretch to the £100,000 that took him to Anfield, where he established a reputation as the most

handsome defender — and arguably the best player, give or take Kenny Dalglish — in the land.

Some suspected Hansen, as they suspect Stubbs now, precisely because he was so good on the ball. The British prefer defenders to be brawlers of wood rather than engravers. It should not be forgotten that Hansen played only 26 times for Scotland, and was left out of the 1986 World Cup squad by Alex Ferguson, who was happier with his Aberdeen partnership of Miller and McLeish.

Stubbs shows no signs of changing his game. At Bolton he is coached by Colin Todd, another brilliant and underused international. Todd won two championships with Derby County in 1972 and 1975 when he was the finest half back in Eng-

land, and his working relationship with Rioch, a Derby team-mate, has enabled Bolton's young players to blossom.

Todd's brilliance as a player in his own position is not lost on Stubbs. "He's been wonderful with me," the younger man said. "The best advice he has given is 'don't ever be afraid to play.' And he can certainly play. Few have such confidence."

Swindon are a good footballing team, too, and Steve McMahon has rattled their cosy rural cage a bit since taking over, so there is a fine game in prospect. But even if Bolton reach Wembley, Rioch and his players cannot afford to take their eye off the ball in the league. However unromantic it sounds, promotion really is more important than cup glory.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

MADRID: International indoor meetings (50 metres): 1. B. Surin (Cuba) 6.56sec; 2. R. Steward (Jama) 6.60; 3. J. Brown (USA) 6.62; 4. R. Steward (Jama) 6.63; 5. J. Brown (USA) 6.64; 6. J. Brown (USA) 6.65; 7. J. Brown (USA) 6.66; 8. J. Brown (USA) 6.67; 9. J. Brown (USA) 6.68; 10. J. Brown (USA) 6.69; 11. J. Brown (USA) 6.70; 12. J. Brown (USA) 6.71; 13. J. Brown (USA) 6.72; 14. J. Brown (USA) 6.73; 15. J. Brown (USA) 6.74; 16. J. Brown (USA) 6.75; 17. J. Brown (USA) 6.76; 18. J. Brown (USA) 6.77; 19. J. Brown (USA) 6.78; 20. J. Brown (USA) 6.79; 21. J. Brown (USA) 6.80; 22. J. Brown (USA) 6.81; 23. J. Brown (USA) 6.82; 24. J. Brown (USA) 6.83; 25. J. Brown (USA) 6.84; 26. J. Brown (USA) 6.85; 27. J. Brown (USA) 6.86; 28. J. Brown (USA) 6.87; 29. J. Brown (USA) 6.88; 30. J. Brown (USA) 6.89; 31. J. Brown (USA) 6.90; 32. J. Brown (USA) 6.91; 33. J. Brown (USA) 6.92; 34. J. Brown (USA) 6.93; 35. J. Brown (USA) 6.94; 36. J. Brown (USA) 6.95; 37. J. Brown (USA) 6.96; 38. J. 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 On the scent of modern perfume bottles Page 10 PLUS: Win Cacharel fragrances, page 10	 Maryland, home to heavenly crab patties Page 20 PLUS: Learning to snowboard, page 22	 Take a cruise to Norway's majestic fjords Page 3 PLUS: Attend a concert for 20p, page 7	 Tainted film goddesses of the Third Reich Page 15 PLUS: This week's bestseller lists, page 14
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WEEKEND

ONE ADVERT AND A WEDDING



By Alice Thomson

Tall, attractive, 35-year-old lady needs tall, professional gentleman to show there is more to life than driving into London every day...

And so 37-year-old Stephen Clark arrived and, obligingly, proposed to Anne Cook in a traffic jam. Unequivocal proof that people who answer advertisements in lonely hearts columns are not all damaged and depressed divorcees, kinky kleptomaniacs or racist midget accountants. Even when they are commuters.

There are seven million adults in Britain who are neither married, in long-term relationships nor flat-sharing. Most of them are over 30 and have either worked so hard that they have been left as well-off wallflowers in society's mating dance, or have married but then divorced. They no longer want to go to a sweaty disco; their eyes have yet to meet, meltingly, over the meals-for-one counter at Sainsbury's; they do not want to risk their jobs by making a pass at someone from work; and they are never going to meet anyone at their married friends' dinner parties where all the discussion is about the merits of double duvets.

But they cannot face another Saturday night alone with *Sleepless in Seattle* on the video or another Sunday afternoon taking their parents' dog for a walk.

Anne, who put the above advertisement in the *Rendezvous* column of the Weekend section of *The Times*, split up from her husband three years ago. "I put everything into my work in London as PA to the managing director of BMW in Park Lane. I was up at 5am and I wouldn't get home to Bracknell until 9pm. I loved the job but it was exhausting and, although I had known my husband since I was 17, we eventually divorced," she says. "After that, I would come home, have a bowl of cereal and go to bed. On Saturdays, I would tidy the house, go shopping, maybe go to a film with some girlfriends or see my family. I had the money but no one to go on holiday with, and I had a house but it was depressing decorating it on my own."

But Anne didn't like night clubs, she was frightened of pubs and she wasn't going to accost someone in an art gallery. The only people she met in the gym were other single women. Friends would try to set her up with someone, but they always seemed to be proselytising policemen and, after one disastrous affair, she gave up.

On Saturday mornings, Anne would scan *The Times's* *Rendezvous* column, pitying all the Desperates from Dorking and Millionaires from Milton Keynes with a Good Sense Of Humour (GSOH) who Would Like To Meet (WLTM) a slim English rose or a gorgeous-sized Goldie Hawn, photo essential, for True Love and Everlasting Happiness (TLEH). Then, last Easter, Anne's sister and her next door neighbour, Pam Sherlock, convinced her to put in an advertisement "just for a laugh".

The sack from the postman arrived two days later. "The first letter I picked out was from Stephen. It was almost too good to be true, apart from the photo, which was cut in half and made me suspicious that he was married," Anne says. She tried to ring but had lost her voice, so she wrote a letter back.

Stephen, who lived in Rochford, Essex, had never answered a lonely hearts advert before and couldn't believe it when he saw an orange envelope in the post the next day, replying to his first try. "It was like winning the National Lottery. I rang up Anne having no idea what I was letting myself in for. The

Continued on page 3, col 1

THE MALDIVES.
'ROBINSON CRUSOE' LIKE
DESERT ISLANDS...
FROM ONLY £579!

If your idea of a holiday is relaxation, seclusion and superb watersports, the Maldives are for you, as featured in our 1995 Worldwide brochure.

Kuoni offer direct flights from Gatwick to this 'atoll' of small Indian Ocean coral islands, surrounded by finest white sand beaches with crystal blue waters that provide some of the worlds finest diving conditions. A true taste of paradise from only £579!

Ask your travel agent for a free brochure, or ring our Brochure line: 01233 211606 (24 hours).

Voted by British Travel Agents "Britain's Best Longhaul Tour Operator"



ABTA 30578 ATOL 128

Planning an evening out, or a day with your family? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

KING PRIAM: The greatest effect on box office is probably that indefinable thing called "word of mouth", greater than any amount of hype, greater than critical raves. The English National Opera's staging of Tippet's opera opened on a Friday, and during the two days before any reviews appeared (and they were very good) London was abuzz with the news that this was something exceptional — a gripping account of Tippet's direct, unflinching treatment of Trojans and Greeks trapped in the spiralling horror of war. The evenly expert cast in Tom Cairns's production is headed by Andrew Shore, Jean Rigby and Thomas Randle; Paul Daniel conducts the first of these final two performances (ENO must be kicking themselves for not scheduling more) and Nicholas Kok the second.

Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-836 3161), tonight, Fri 17, 7.30pm. £

DER ROSENKAVALIER: The Royal Opera's latest revival of Strauss's bittersweet comedy of bad manners is strong where it matters — in the principals. Forget the Christmas cake designs and routine direction, revel instead in the depth of Felicity Lott's exquisitely sung portrayal of the Marschallin, in Barbara Bonney's sprightly Sophie and Aage Haugland's thoroughly amiable Ochs, and with luck — if she has got over her cold — in Anne Sofie von Otter's first London Octavian. Andrew Davis conducts a glowingly romantic account of the score. Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), tonight, Wed 15, 6.30pm. £

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

VISIONS OF PARADISE: The great Tippet festival continues at the Barbican. Tomorrow, the London Symphony Orchestra plays his luscious, Balinese-sounding Triple Concerto (with LSO string principals as soloists). This is put in fascinating conjunction with Elgar's First Symphony. On Wednesday the London Sinfonietta gives the world premiere of David Sawer's *The Greatest Happiness Principle*, sandwiched between two more Tippet works. The LSO is back on Thursday with Tippet's "Beethovenian" Third Symphony, fittingly coupled with Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto. Then on Friday the Grimethorpe Colliery Band teams up with the London Sinfonietta and Chorus for a tremendous mixed bag of contemporary brass and choral music. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), all 7.30pm. £

CREATION AT COVENT GARDEN: John Eliot Gardiner is about to add Haydn's *The Creation* to his now extensive list of Deutsche Grammophon recordings, and this Royal Opera House performance is given by the forces — Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists, soloists led by Sylvia McNair — that will go into the studio next week. Expect stunning singing, immaculately well-prepared interpretations and intelligent insights. The question is really whether Gardiner can unbind sufficiently to project Haydn's wit and warmth. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (0171-304 4000), tomorrow, 7pm. £

ROCK

David Sinclair

ERIC CLAPTON: Fifty next month, Eric Clapton is beginning to resemble the blues veterans that inspired him in the first place. He is, of course, white and immensely rich, whereas they were black and often destitute, but there is no denying the depth of feeling and technical finesse which informs his current album, *From The Cradle*. SECC, Glasgow (0141-248 9999), Feb 15; Sheffield Arena (0114 2565656), Feb 16; Albert Hall, London SW7 (0171-589 8212), Feb 19-21, 23-25, 27, 28, March 1, 3-5; National Indoor Arena, Birmingham (021-200 2202), March 7.

SPIRITUALIZED ELECTRIC MAINLINE: The New Musical Express, having invited ambient-rockers Spiritualized Electric Mainline to perform at its Brit Awards celebration gig last month, described the trio's contribution as "aural mogadon for people too scared to buy Pink Floyd albums". With friends like that... Manchester University (0161-832 1111), Feb 16; Sheffield University (0114 2768555), Feb 17; Barrowlands, Glasgow (0141-552 4601), Feb 18; Mayfair, Newcastle (0191-232 3109), Feb 19; Metropolitan University, Leeds (0113 2442999), Feb 21; Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton (01902 312030), Feb 22; Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Feb 25; Junction, Cambridge (01223 412600), Feb 26; Pyramid, Portsmouth (01705 826666), Feb 27; Leicester University (0116 2556282), March 1; Roadmender, Northampton (01604 604222), March 2; Bristol University (0117 9299008), March 3.



Andrew Shore as King Priam in the English National Opera's gripping account of Tippet's opera

JAZZ

Clive Davis

JIMMY WITHERSPOON/MARTY GROSZ: Fifty years ago Jimmy Witherspoon was singing the Kansas City blues with the Jay McShann band. Now a senior citizen, he no longer packs quite as powerful a punch as he did in his younger days, but like that other veteran, Charles Brown, he still delivers the 12-bar blues with worldly sophistication. Marty Grosz, a wonderful raconteur and purveyor of witticisms, takes his inspiration from the hot jazz and pop tunes of the 1920s and 1930s. A genial live performer, his persona is summed up in the title of his album, *Songs I Learned At My Mother's Knee And Other Low Joints*.

Witherspoon: Jazz Café, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-946 6000), Fri 17, Sat 18; Grosz: Pizza Express, Dean St, London, W1, (0171-439 8722), Wed 15 to Sat 18.

EBERHARD WEBER: In the wrong hands, the solo jazz recital can turn into the most self-indulgent and long-winded of affairs. The German double bass player Eberhard Weber is one of the handful of musicians who can keep an audience enthralled without resorting to gimmickry. He has developed a wholly individual approach to the bass, expanding its range through the use of additional strings and extremely subtle use of electronics. Tonight's concert will be preceded by a set by Tommy Smith and Murray McLachlan. Tomorrow evening there will be an extra solo performance by the lyrical pianist David Newton.

Musie Hall, Aberdeen (01224 641122), tonight, 8.30pm; Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.45pm; Sallis Benney Theatre, Brighton (01273 643010), Mon 13, 8pm; Arncliffe, Bristol (0117 9299191) Tues 14, 8pm.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

UNFOLDING BEAUTY: Described as a "secret collection", the artefacts belonging to the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers are virtually unknown even to members and have never been shown in public before. They illustrate the 286-year history of this small City Livery company with fans and related items. The star exhibits include a group of fans bequeathed

to the company by Princess Alice, an enthusiastic commissioner and collector, among them one autographed by members of the Royal Family since Queen Victoria. The Fan Museum, 12 Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 (0181-858 7879), Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-4.30pm; Sunday noon-4.30pm, until May 14. Admission £2.50.

ELISABETH FRINK: The death of Elisabeth Frink in 1993 is appropriately marked by a memorial exhibition drawn largely from the sculptor's own collection and organised by Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The work spans a period of more than 30 years, with her early rise to prominence (the Tate bought a sculpted Bird when she was still a student) to her latest monumental pieces such as the *Risen Christ* commissioned for Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. The animal pieces are particularly strong, and the visored *Goggle Heads* retain all their mysterious power. The exhibition also includes her expressive drawings and economically powerful prints. Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry (01203 524731) Monday-Friday, noon-8pm; Saturday 10am-8pm, until March 18. £

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

TATE NEW DISPLAYS: The annual rehang has been unveiled at the Tate Gallery, and there are plenty of delights to discover. In the historic British collection, Zoffany's recently acquired *Colonel Mordaunt's Cock Match* stands out. Painted in India around 1784-6, its lively observation of a grand social gathering at the court of the Nawab Wazir seems with incident. In the modern collection, rooms devoted to individuals as diverse as Wyndham Lewis and John Latham are rewarding. So is Room 28, where Guston and Dubuffet confront each other with formidable energy, watched over by Basile's impressive wood carving of a grim, paint-smeared figure. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000). £

ZARINA BHIMJI: After a year as an Artist Fellow at Cambridge, Zarina Bhimji is showing a substantial exhibition of her recent work at Kettle's Yard. Using photography and ready-made objects, she explores issues of institutional control and the eugenics movement, which argued for racial improvement through selective breeding. Large, blurred portraits of mixed-race individuals look like condemned prisoners on metal shelves, and Bhimji's recent work in pathology museums yields disturbing images. But in the most powerful exhibit, called *I Will Always Be Here*, a cluster of burnt kurtas (shirts) hangs down mournfully from the ceiling of a high, narrow room. A haunting show by a young artist worth following as she moves between memory and fantasy, violence and unexpected sensuousness. Kettle's Yard, Castle Street, Cambridge (01223 352124), until Feb 26.

DANCE

John Percival

ROYAL BALLET: Performances of Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* replace the previously announced revival of his *Prince of the Pagodas*. Darcey Bussell and Jonathan Cope dance the title parts on Friday 17 and Wednesday 22 at 7.30pm; there will be further showings in April. Also given this week is *Giselle* with Viviana Durante on Tuesday 14 at 7.30pm and Saturday 18 at 7pm, and Sarah Wildor makes her debut on Saturday 18 at 2pm. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-304 4000). £

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: Two performances of Ashton's *La fille mal gardée*, the most touching of all modern ballets, end the brief London season today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. In between, a chance to see how the company nurtures young choreographers with a special showing in the Lilian Baylis studio theatre at 6.15pm of *Dives Jives* with Lazarus, a new work by Jillian Mackrill to a score by Nigel Swinford. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-278 8916). £

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE LIVE BED SHOW: Looking like a mushroom with a hangover, Paul Merion wows Caroline Quentin with lugubrious love-letters and doleful, self-deprecating quips. As a study of the British way of sex, Arthur Smith's play is an anthropologist's delight, at once unfunny and hilarious. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-494 5093). Evenings, Monday to Thursday, 8pm; Friday and Saturday, 8.45pm; matinee: Friday and Saturday at 6.30pm.

THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE CABROL: Do not be daunted by the Theatre de Complicite's fancy name and haute couture image. This is a touching celebration of the spirit of survival as embodied by Lilo Baur's salty sympathetic peasant, smuggler and eccentric. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (0171-379 5399). Evenings, Monday to Friday, 7.30pm; Saturdays, 8pm; matinee: Saturday, 2.30pm. £

• More theatre, page 6.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

HEAVENLY CREATURES (18): The New Zealand director Peter Jackson leaps into the front league with this compelling, imaginative retelling of the strange, fatal friendship between two Christchurch girls in the early 1950s. Murder is the end product, but gore plays little part. Instead Jackson sweeps us up into the girls' thoughts and carries us through a chain of events that are bizarre and hilarious, scary and erotic, touching and chilling. Some of the girls' imaginings are created with plasticine figures. But the film, most adroitly cast, and shot wherever possible in the original locations, retains a human face to the end.



Heavenly Creatures: Melanie Lynskey and Kate Winslet

Gate (0171-727 4043); Lumiere (0171-836 0691); MGM Fulham Road (0171-370 2636); Renoir (0171-837 8402); Richmond (0181-332 0030); Screen/Baker Street (0171-935 2772); Screen/Hill (0171-435 3366).

STAR TREK: GENERATIONS (PG): Patrick Stewart and other stars of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* television series make their film debut in a clumsily plotted but acceptable adventure that should pave the way for better things. To bridge the gap between *Star Trek* crews, William Shatner's Captain Kirk is on hand to offer tongue-in-cheek remarks ("I take it the odds are against us, and the outlook is grim"). The villain of the piece is Malcolm McDowell, a megalomaniac keen to harness the galaxy's energy ribbons. Empire (0800 888911); MGMs Baker Street (0171-935 9772); Fulham Road (0171-370 2636); Trocadero (0171-434 0031); UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332).

• More films, page 6.

CHILDREN

LONDON

Make a Lion Head and Chinese lanterns. Take a crash course in the martial art Tai chi, and watch acrobats and musicians as part of the Chinese New Year workshop. Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington SW7 (0171-938 8500). Today and tomorrow from 1.30-4pm. Admission free. £

Hot Shoe Shuffle: Tap show. Churchill Theatre, Bromley (0181-460 6677). Last day today at 2.30pm and 7.45pm. Adults from £8.50, children from £6.50. £

Major Mustard's Magical Mustard Pot Puppet show for three to seven-year-olds. *Cinderella* for four to eight-year-olds (also puppet show). Major Mustard's Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, off Cross Street, N1 2DN (0171-226 1787). Today and tomorrow at 11am; *Cinderella*: Today and tomorrow at 3pm. Adults £5, children £4. £

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ROALD DAHL'S CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION: Feeling brave? Then test out the Feely Box (put hand in box and guess object). Less scary attractions include original Quentin Blake illustrations, colouring competition, video. Buckinghamshire County Museum, St Mary's Square, Aylesbury (01296 888449). Today from 10am-1.30pm and from 2pm-5pm. Closed tomorrow. Until March 4. Admission free.



Children's writer Roald Dahl

CHESHIRE

George's Marvellous Medicine: Extended tour of Roald Dahl's riveting tale. Lyceum Theatre, Crewe (01270 537333). Starts Wednesday 15 at 10am and 1.30pm. Various times until Sat 18. Adults from £6.50 upwards, children £6. £

HERTFORDSHIRE

Symbols in Silk: Exhibition of Chinese court costumes and textiles from the Qing Imperial Court (1644-1911). Workshops during half-term week (week beginning Feb 20). Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans (01727 819340). Today, 10am-5pm; tomorrow, 2pm-5pm. Admission free. £

SCOTLAND

STAR TREK: THE EXHIBITION. Come and marvel at this life-size model of the Enterprise and learn all about its crew. City Arts Centre, Edinburgh (0131-558 1013). Today from 10am-5.30pm and tomorrow from noon-5pm. Adults £3.50, children £2. Family ticket (two plus two) £9. £

TYNE AND WEAR

Creepy Crawly Roadshow: Giant size replicas of insects, spiders and their relatives. Hancock Museum, the University, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191-222 7418). Starts Thur 16, Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm. Sundays 2pm-5pm. Adults £1.80, children £1, under-fours free. £

WALES

World School Debating Championships: Pick up tips on how to talk persuasively. Suitable for teenagers upwards. St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (01222 342611). Today, 6.15pm. Free. £

YORKSHIRE

Circus Workshop Open Day: Juggling, acrobatics, trapeze stunts and face-painting to celebrate the opening of the new Circus Arts Centre. Green Top, Circus Centre, Holywell Road, Brightside, Sheffield, South Yorkshire (0114 2560622). Today at 2pm. Admission free. £

Jorvik Festival Craft Day: Candlemaking, leatherwork and more. Also Viking longboat regatta from 10am-4pm along the River Ouse between Skeldergate and Ouse Bridges. Admission free. Hospitality Museum, Gardens, York (01904 61944). Today at 9.30am. Children 50p.

JANE BIDDER

Ruth Gledhill deserts the office for a one-day retreat to Alton Abbey in Hampshire

AT YOUR SERVICE

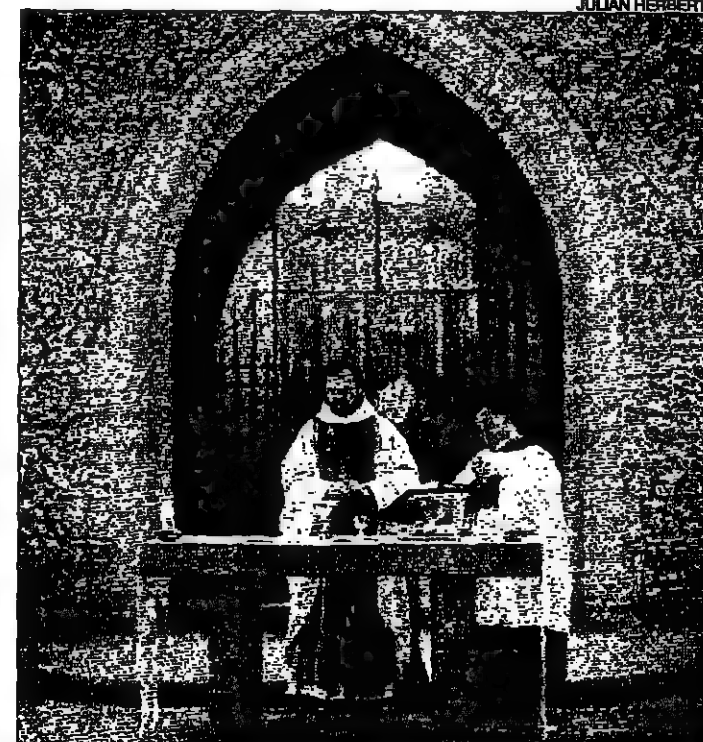


AFTER ALTON Abbey was described to me by one regular visitor as the "best-kept secret in the Church of England". It became my religious duty to visit and ensure it no longer remained so. The same visitor, an "oblate" or lay member who lives outside but remains in close contact with the community, described it as the place to go when you need six weeks holiday but can only spare a day. It sounded perfect.

The Abbey is that rare combination of the Anglican and Catholic which appears to work, a community of men who follow the Benedictine "Rule", or monastic way of life, within the Church of England. St Benedict's rule, considered one of the most important factors in the foundation of western civilisation, is the norm for all Western monks and, as a Christian guide for living, has had incalculable influence on our educational and legal systems.

When I arrived in time for candlemass, the monastery was still settling down after the brief flurry of publicity which followed the decision by the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Right Rev Timothy Bavin, to exchange his purple for the black monastic habit and join Alton Abbey as a postulant next year. Ever in need of retreat, I was on a "desert day", a material escape from the office, if not the mobile phone or pager, and a chance to recuperate spiritually.

Mass was the third "divine office" or service of a day which, for the seven monks at Alton, began at 5.30am with the vigil, went on to morning prayer (*lauds*) at 7.15am through mass at 9am, midday office (*sest*), evening prayer (*vespers*) at 5pm and night prayer (*compline*) at 8.30pm. In line with most men's Benedictine houses the monastery recently



Abbot Giles Hill leads candlemass in the tiny flint chapel

dropped the use of the traditional Latin names and no longer holds the morning office of *tierce* or the afternoon office, *none*. Our candlemass, on the Feast of the Presentation, which marks the end of the Christmas period and the beginning of the run-up to Lent and Easter, was led by youthful, charismatic abbot, Dom Giles Hill. After the monks processed in holding candles, followed by a surprisingly large congregation which almost filled the tiny flint chapel, he said: "Bless these candles and make them holy. May we who carry them praise your glory and walk in the heart of goodness."

Monks enter Alton Abbey as postulants, which they remain for between three and six months, then become novices for 12 months and one day. If they wish to carry on they apply for election

and must gain a two-thirds majority from the other monks before they can take the junior vows of obedience, conversion of life and stability.

Novices remain in junior vows for three years, when they must apply for election to solemn vows, which are the same as junior vows except they have lifelong commitment. Contrary to popular belief, Benedictines have never taken vows of poverty and chastity, although these principles are implicit in their vows.

The last monk to join Alton was Anselm Shobrooke, more than four years ago. He has gone on to achieve a worldwide reputation as an iconographer. Of the seven monks, aged from 34 to 80, three are ordained and four are brothers, the only practical difference being that the priests can celebrate the eucharist. Besides desert

day, retreatants can go to Alton Abbey for weekends studying Jane Austen with Dom Nicholas Seymour, the guestmaster and a leading expert on the author, and for an icon painting week with Brother Anselm.

The monastery was founded as a religious order in 1884 by the Rev Charles Hopkins to care for merchant seamen. Fr Hopkins spent his first night sleeping in a tent, and for the first few years the monastery consisted of tin huts. Over coffee, the oldest monk, Dom Peter, who had been there for 58 years, explained his vocation. He said he had been a journalist on the *Hull Daily Mail*. "I always wanted to be a monk, from the age of seven. But I felt I ought to earn an ordinary living first. When I came here there were no electric lights or hot water. I have no regrets. I still enjoy it enormously. There is a certain peace about it."

Alton Abbey, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4AP.

ABBOT: The Rt Rev Dom Giles Hill.

ARCHITECTURE: Parts are recognised as masterpieces of 1930s architecture. The monastic buildings, in local flint, were designed by Sir Charles Nicholson who used Tintern Abbey on the Welsh borders as his model. ****

MUSIC: Strangely evocative Gregorian plainsong, chants predating the Middle Ages. ****

LITURGY: Based on the monastic divine office. The Abbey is in the process of revising its liturgies, in modern English but ancient-sounding in tone. ****

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Unparalleled. Coffee and tea, lunch of chilli, supper of sausage rolls and baked beans, plus numerous monks and clergy on hand to offer spiritual succour. ****

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Cloistral and contemplative. ****

*stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

COVER STORY

3



Anne Cook and Stephen Clark met through *The Times*

Continued from page 1
photograph she had sent me didn't help. It was of her wearing a balacava, sitting on a horse which was standing in a snowy field. Two answerphone messages later, they finally spoke to each other. "We talked for two hours the first time, it was mostly about how nervous we were, how we preferred water-skiing to doing the washing-up and the horrors of commuting," Stephen says. They arranged to meet at Harry's Bar in London on a Friday night, but an hour before the date Anne felt too nervous and cancelled. "I felt so guilty afterwards that I rang up Stephen and apologised. I suggested he should come over to my house on the Sunday even though I knew it was mad to invite a stranger home," she says. "The first thing I noticed when Stephen arrived was that we were wearing similar clothes: jeans, white T-shirts and blue blazers." Stephen only remembers seeing a tall, gaunt blonde and deciding he wanted to fatten her up. They went out to lunch, and Stephen explained that he'd met his first wife at a disco when he was 21. They had had three children but had drifted apart over the years. Eventually, Stephen, who works for an insurance company, had moved out, and had started dating someone from his office. After that relationship ended, he had become incredibly depressed, and had lost contact with all his old

friends. Then, he spotted Anne's advert and plucked up the courage to reply. By lunchtime on the Monday Anne and Stephen had already called each other three times. "We didn't kiss on the first few dates. We were quite proper and met each other's families first," Stephen says. "My children and my ex-wife thought Anne would be a leather-clad biker because she had a huge motorcycle, but once they'd met her, they all came to adore her. And I convinced her family I wasn't a boulder." Three weeks later Stephen proposed to Anne in a traffic jam as they commuted into London together. Four weeks later, Stephen moved in with Anne and started building her a conservatory — now complete — and this autumn they are planning to get married in Jamaica. But how perilous is it to meet a partner in this way? Last year, Ann Mead, a south London GP, was beaten to death by Brian Vale, who became fixated with her during a five-month affair. They had met after he replied to her lonely heart advert in the *New Statesman* magazine. Jenny, a journalist living in a small village in Sussex, has been placing adverts in *The Times's* *Rendezvous* column for the past three years, ever since her husband walked out, leaving her to bring up their two children alone. "It is incredibly difficult to meet new people when you have children. My friends are all



Cover photograph of Anne Cook and Stephen Clark, and feature photographs, by GRAHAM TROTT
Flowers by PULBROOK & GOULD

“You may have to kiss some toads, but there are princes”

couples, everyone at work is female, and there seems to be a dearth of eligible men in Sussex. So I decided to advertise," she says. "One of the replies was from a headmaster, who raised my hopes until the conversation turned to his corporal punishment of boys and how did I feel about watching. Another just wanted a surrogate mother, and one started his letter with: 'Despite my debilitating skin disease...' I stupidly also met one at home on the first date. He said he was a good-

looking Christian. He turned out to be creepy with greasy hair, and he had bought me a red lace garter. I showed him the door but he kept sending me underwear."

This hasn't deterred Jenny, but she has some tips for that first date. "Make sure you meet them in a public place, and tell someone where you are. Then you can make your excuses and leave if you think they are wrong for you. It's no more dangerous than meeting someone at a party or a wedding, and it's cheaper and more entertaining than going on a singles holiday. You have much more control if you place the ad. You can sift through the replies, ring them at work and do some checking. You may have to kiss one or two toads, but there are some princes," Jenny says. Mark, a solicitor in Exeter, used *The Times* because he thought that, at 35, he was too old to chat up women in bars, and anyway they were usually boring. "One girl wrote that she had painted her bathroom black and had rigged up the toilet to play the Funeral March when it was flushed. But, on the whole, they were great women, feisty and amusing, and I have been living with a girl I met through my ad for more than a year now." Virginia Ironside, the agency aunt for *Today* newspaper, says she receives sacksful of letters asking whether she recommends placing or replying to a lonely heart advert or joining a dating agency. "Trust your instincts about the people you blind date," she says. "Any hint of them being weird and you should say goodbye straight away. Otherwise, I am in favour of ads and dating agencies. People work so hard and move around so much now that they can't rely on their family and friends to introduce them to people."

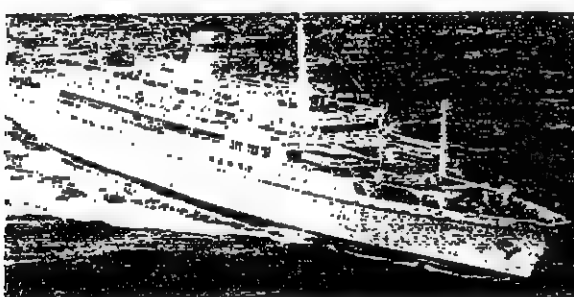
Robin Dunbar, professor of psychology at Liverpool University, has been studying the growth of lonely heart adverts in Britain for the past three years and is astonished by how fast they have caught on. "These adverts first appeared in America in the 1880s, when pioneers sought wives who would cross the great plains with them. But the adverts acquired an unsavoury reputation, and young women soon stopped using them. While marriage bureaux and matchmakers flourished in America and Britain, personal adverts did not reappear until the 1970s. *The Times* began its *Rendezvous* column six years ago. Margaret Harper, who runs the column, says: "Most advertisers are looking for someone to spend the rest of their lives with. We reject ads from people asking for bed sports or S&M, as well as married people looking for an affair." But what should you include in an advert? According to Professor Dunbar, men tend to be more interested in looks and age, while women want maturity, status, wealth or humour — and, increasingly, someone who can vacuum the floor. "As men get older they get more picky; as women get older they will trade a slim lothario for a kind-hearted man, interested in the arts and fond of pasta." The coding in the adverts is subtle. People never specify the area in which they live unless it is impressive, and they want you to know. In Britain, people indicate wealth by whether they are educated and own a car and a house, but never by their salary. "Educated" can mean one O level, "professional" can be anything above a filing clerk, and "cuddly" usually does mean fat. But you can tell a lot

there are the dinner party dating agencies, where you can meet eight men and women and check them out over the grilled goat's cheese and taramasalata. If you decide on an agency, always make sure it is approved by the Association of British Introduction Agencies, which insists that stringent checks are made on clients — from addresses and telephone numbers to bank accounts. One agency which advertises in the *Rendezvous* column, Drawing Down the Moon, caters for middle-class professionals. Mary Balfour set up the agency ten years ago and now has more than 800 hopefuls on her books, each paying £734 a year to be introduced to other clients. Only 20 per cent of those who apply to join are accepted. "To join, you either need to be born into the middle class, have been educated into it or have a professional, solvent, professional business class just don't mix. Clients are apprehensive at the beginning that dating agencies are for losers but actually most people on my books are high-flyers who need someone to sort out their private lives in the same way they need accountants, doctors and decorators." The agency's formula is remarkably successful. At any one time, about 45 per cent of the clients are "on hold together", meaning they are "an item" and out of circulation. Initially, clients fill in a two-page profile on the films and music they like, their credit worthiness, which sports or exercise they prefer, their political persuasion, and the newspapers they read, and they attach a current photograph. Then they wait to be chosen. "Looks do influence people, but you don't have to be beautiful. Everyone has a vague idea of the type of face they like. Most men don't like

pictures of women in glasses or hats and women don't like men with moustaches," Mrs Balfour says. She also finds it difficult to match people aged over 43 and under 27 and prefers everyone to have had "a little previous experience". Being matched with a mate may seem a little like applying for a romantic credit card. But Robert Proops, 50, a graphic designer, says the process is not as painful as it sounds. He went to Drawing Down the Moon after the break-up of his marriage and the end of a long-term relationship. "It reconstructed my ego. You are sent profiles of people who want to meet you and you start to think maybe life is not all that bad. You always have someone to go to the cinema with or to the theatre and there are endless picnics. I'm open about going to a dating agency. When one of my friends recently got married, the bride was desperate that he didn't mention in his speech that they met through a dating agency, which was a shame. There are a lot of lonely people who don't need to be. Why are we still squeamish about these old-fashioned ideas of how to fall in love?" he says. The Americans have gone one step further. Single women can now let their fingers do the walking through a glossy mail-order catalogue — or "male order" as the cover boasts — of eligible bachelors, each checked out by private detectives. For \$5.95, *The Bachelor Book* offers photographs and addresses of professionals who are rich, funny and clever, with references from their mothers, sisters or former wives bearing witness that the man is "a real nice guy". Mindi Rudan, the magazine's publisher, is now thinking of launching a similar magazine in Britain. "It was my grandmother's idea. She thought that it was a shame that so many of my female friends were single and unhappy. She used to say: 'there is a cover for every pot somewhere, so why not do a bit of rummaging around'?"

From America, *The Bachelor Book* and *The Bachelorette Book* are glossy mail-order catalogues of eligible men and women. Similar magazines may soon be launched here

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFER



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ARTS

NEW ON VIDEO: Clothes and clichés in the Old West; dinner at Buñuel's place

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

■ AMY'S MISBEHAVIOUR The Falls Waller (reel) shows an evening of stomping, tapping, exuberant song and dance. **Thames Valley** High Rd, NW6 (0171-325 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Returns in person at the box office from 7pm only, until Feb 25. (S)

■ THE CLAUDESTINE MARRIAGE Nigel Hawthorne plays the disaffected Lord Ogilby and decides a strong cast in the good-hearted comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love. **Queens**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5941). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

■ CREDITORS Incoming production from Theatre Fusion of Shindler's play for three characters, wife, new husband and unfaithful former husband. **Gale**, Pentridge Road W11 (0171-226 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm.

■ THE DANCE OF DEATH Shindler's impassioned, sometimes comic, view of marriage as hell. Subtle characterisation by Gemma Jones and John Newle. **Almeida**, Almeida St, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until Mar 4. (S)

■ DANGEROUS CORNERS Keith Barker directs an excellent cast in Pinter's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives it is never too late to probe into. **Whitehall**, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-359 1735). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Wed 3pm and Sat 5pm. Until Mar 11.

■ DEALER'S CHOICE Patrick Marber, co-writer of numerous stage comedies, directs his own first play, a comedy about an off-night poker game. **National** (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-426 2252). Today, 7.30pm; Sat, 7.30pm. (S)

■ THE DUCHESSES OF MALF With John Stevenson as the villainous heroine and Simon Russell Beale her cadidic, even brother, the production (by Philip Frank) promises to be electrifying. **Greenwich**, Croarts Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Now previewing, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Open later.

■ JAMES WORTH The one-act play adapted from Nick Hornby's best-selling account of a lifelong obsession with Arsenal FC. **Stephen North** takes us through 45 minutes each night. **Arts**, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-338 2132). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15 (seats) and 8.30pm (back row).

CINEMA GUIDE

■ ONLY YOU (PG) Maria Tomici crosses the man of her dreams through Italy. Lucy Bland of comedy, romance and tragedy, with Robert Downey Jr. **Decca**, Decca, SW1 (0171-426 1466).

■ THE THREEPENNY OPERA Physically splendidly mercurial, Kurt Wall's opera, with Tom Hollander. Words by the team of writers customarily known as "Berlt Brecht". **Donmar Warehouse**, Grafton St, WC2 (0171-359 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Wed and Sat, 3pm. (S)

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■ ZOFFER - THE MUSICAL The masked ensemble of comic legend returns to the stage in a new, more intimate and sadder tale. **Donmar Warehouse**, Grafton St, WC2 (0171-359 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sun, 4pm. (S)

■ LONG RUNNERS **■ ACADEMY** Haymarket (0171-850 8800). **■ BLOOD BROTHERS** Phoenix (0171-857 1044). **■ CARRY ON** Phoenix (0171-405 0772). **■ CRIMINAL MINDS** Phoenix (0171-857 1044). **■ CRIMINAL MINDS** Phoenix (0171-857 1044). **■ CRIMINAL MINDS** Phoenix (0171-857 1044).

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NEW RELEASES

DALLAS DOLL (18) Golf guru Sandra Bernhard Repeats the Sydney success. A bottled anger, water director Ann Turner. **Melrose** (0171-437 0757).

HEAVENLY CREATURES (18) Sex. **Orion** (0171-437 0757).

SOLITAIRE FOR TWO (15) Body language. **Orion** (0171-437 0757).

STAR TREK: GENERATIONS (PG) Sex. **Orion** (0171-437 0757).

THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT (18) Two gay queens and a garage band stuck in the Australian outback. Joyful and vulgar romp with Terence Stamp and Hugo Weaving. **Orion** (0171-437 0757).

AMATEUR (18) Amateur. **Orion** (0171-437 0757).

BARCELONA (12) **Orion** (0171-437 0757).

EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN (PG) **Orion** (0171-437 0757).

EVEN COWBOYS GET THE BLUES (15) **Orion** (0171-437 0757).

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL (15) **Orion** (0171-437 0757).

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BAD GIRLS

For Video, 15, 1994 **HARD** to believe in Andie MacDowell, Mary Stuart Masterston, Madeleine Stowe and Drew Barrymore as horse-riding prostitutes in the Old West. Barrymore apart, they appear to be modelling for an outdoor clothes catalogue. But if realism is in short supply, clichés are in abundance. from the usual bank thefts and gold shipment hijacks to lines of dialogue such as: "You're dead - I just ain't killed you yet!" Directed by the usually dependable Jonathan Kaplan. Available to rent.

■ BEVERLY HILLS COP III **CIC, 15, 1994** **EDDIE** Murphy can still grin, but the cocky strut and street-smart appeal that consolidated his stardom in the first *Cop* film have long been replaced by cardboard replicas. A mid-dling, sanitised adventure for the maverick cop Axel Foley, who uncovers bad doings at a Los Angeles theme park. With Judge Reinhold and Hector Elizondo. John Landis directs. Available to rent.

■ COUSIN COUSINE **Arrow, 15, 1975** **SOUFFLE** cinema: a few bites, and it has gone. While you are eating, though, Jean-Charles Tacchella's social comedy about two French families united by marriage appears reasonably tasty, and certainly superior to the later American remake, *Cousins*. Marie-Christine Barrault is the slightly bored newlywed, Victor Lanoux the relative she falls for. None of Tacchella's later films have achieved a comparable international success.

■ EDVARD MUNCH **Academy, PG, 1976** **PETER** Watkins, director of *The War Game* and thorn in the Establishment's side, found a kindred spirit in Edvard Munch and created this three-and-a-half-hour epic to celebrate the painter's life, work and obsessions. The visual style is quasi-documentary, as though cameras and



Angels on horseback: from left, Madeleine Stowe, Mary Stuart Masterston, Drew Barrymore, Andie MacDowell

microphones were thrust into late 19th-century Oslo for on-the-spot reports. Watkins's own spoken commentary, heavy with facts and names, brings a touch of the classroom. An impressive achievement overall, both lyrical and monumental, but not the film for an idle moment.

■ THE EXTERMINATING ANGEL **Electric, 12, 1962** **ONE** of Buñuel's best films,

with an audacious and simple premise: having arrived for supper at a friend's house, a rich gaggle of people find they have lost the ability to leave. Social decorum is gradually abandoned, violence looms, rubbish accumulates, sanitation worsens and several people die. Buñuel's crazy mirror on human society offers razor-sharp images, possible meanings galore and hilarious jokes. Also available is Buñuel's

45-minute *Simon of the Desert*, made three years later, a wicked account of the tribulations of Simon Stylites, perched on a pillar in the Mexican desert.

■ LITTLE BUDDHA **Buena Vista, PG, 1994** **A** RUM mixture from Bernardo Bertolucci: one part magical fable for children about the Indian prince Siddhartha, founder of Buddhism; one part introductory

course in spiritual enlightenment. The best scenes, set 25 centuries ago, shimmer with opulent images that approach *The Last Emperor* and give Keanu Reeves (a persuasive Siddhartha) a chance to atone for past bad performances. The modern story about a Seattle boy (Alex Wiesendanger) who might possibly be a reincarnated Lama proves less convincing.

GEOFF BROWN

Lies, damned lies, and wattage

Writing about hi-fi makes me acutely aware how impressed — or daunted — people are by performance figures. They assume you cannot evaluate equipment without bawling abstruse statistics about like Steffi Graf on overdrive — an impression too many dealers and magazines do nothing to dispel.

But it simply is not so. As in any other field, statistics can be manipulated. Manufacturers misuse them, buyers misunderstand them — a perfect harmony of nonsense. Take the commonest, everyone cites: even the catalogue store listings allot every little mid-system "20 watts per channel", or whatever. Most people assume it tells you how much sound the system can produce. 40 watts being louder than 20, just as a 100-watt lightbulb is brighter than a 60-watt. Actually, this is one of the classic hi-fi fallacies.

A watt is a unit of electrical power, so this figure refers only to a system's amplifier output. How it gets turned into sound depends on the loudspeakers, and these may differ widely — in their circuitry's electrical resistance, for one thing, rated in ohms. An amplifier delivering 20 watts to a speaker rated at 8 ohms, the commonest, will deliver

If you come across a hi-fi system quoting impressive statistics such as watts rms, watts DIN or 'music power' — give it a wide berth

40 to a 4-ohm speaker, ten to a 16-ohm. Acoustic efficiency also varies: an "efficient" speaker will produce more actual sound from a given amount of power. By a paradox of physics, though, an "inefficient" speaker often sounds better.

Furthermore, this 20 watts or whatever is not what the amplifier puts out all the time — only what it can produce if necessary. Most of the time an amplifier uses only a tiny fraction of its potential power, and a good thing too. A musical signal contains many peaks, sharply increasing the power demand. The more of its potential power the amplifier is using, the nearer to its limits these peaks will take it, until it becomes overtaxed.

Then the sound grows increasingly distorted, eventually turning into a nasty noise, a process known as "clipping" — to be avoided, because it

can cause delicate speaker units to tear themselves apart, literally. An amplifier is happiest when used well below its limit, and yields its best results because it has more "elbow room" to reproduce the signal. A good amplifier such as the Quad I looked at in the last column is usually rated conservatively, at 70 watts, say, when it can yield 85, because that approaches the margins of its ideal performance — like a car's cruising speed as opposed to top speed.

As if all that were not enough, wattage can be differently assessed. The standard accepted by most reputable manufacturers is a kind of "divine average" called root-mean-square, or watts rms. Some, though — chiefly mid-system merchants — quote watts DIN — a geriatric Euro-standard — or "music power", consummately meaningless. These conveniently double the wattage. They do have one practical

use, though: if you see a produce quoting them, avoid it. And even watts rms can be fiddled...

After such a bombardment, you might well ask why anybody bothers to quote amplifier wattage at all. Actually it does provide a good rule of thumb for matching amplifiers to speakers, to produce a particular volume.

Even in this, though, you can be flexible. Keep the volume control down and you can use a high-wattage amplifier with lower-rated speakers — especially if, like Mordant-Short, some B&W and other models, they have overload protection circuits. But if you use an underpowered amplifier with high-rated speakers, you risk having to drive it to clipping levels, and giving your treble units a ripping time.

Almost any common hi-fi statistic — distortion, for example — can be misused as easily. You can generally rely on a reputable manufacturer's figures, but not as absolute guarantees — merely indicators that your own ears and judgment can confirm. *Prima è musica, poi le parole* — and all the statistics in the world will not alter that.

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

Take two of Britain's funniest people, dump them under the duvet, and see what happens — at a special Theatre Club price

In bed with Paul Merton

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

WHEN comic Paul Merton proposed to comic Caroline Quentin he went down on one knee, in the approved manner — but in Piccadilly Circus, next to the Statue of Eros. But then Merton has become famous for his spontaneity, being hilarious off the top of his head on radio (*Just A Minute*), television (*Have I Got News For You*) and, of course, as one of the country's best stand-up comedians. Quentin, too, comes from a solid television background of hits such as *Men Behaving Badly*.

Now, though, the husband and wife team are having to work with a script. Luckily, it's a very funny one, written by Arthur Smith, who co-wrote *An Evening with Gary Lineker*. Anyone who has ever spent a night in a strange bed will enjoy Smith's sexy, witty *Live Bed Show*, a tussle of love, sheets and emotional ping-pong. Theatre Club members can buy tickets for the show, at the Garrick Theatre in Charing Cross Road, London WC2, for £15 (normally £20) for Monday to Thursday evenings and 6.30pm performance on Fridays. To book, telephone 0171-494 5085

Pyjama games with Caroline Quentin and Paul Merton in Arthur Smith's *Live Bed Show* — see opening listing

EDINBURGH Festival Theatre

Feb 21 **■ NATIONAL Youth Music Theatre** presents the musical and magical extravaganza *Pendragon*. This thrilling exploration of the darker depths of the Arthurian legend was a hit of the 1994 Edinburgh Festival. *Pendragon* is a triumphant production full of romance, chivalry, adventure... and giant flying insects. Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £10.50 and £12.50). Tel 0131-529 6000

YORK Theatre Royal **Feb 28-March 3** **■ WHEN** the lovely Elvira returns to haunt her husband Charles, his second marriage does not stand a chance. Poltergeists and very dry martinis create havoc in the classic comedy *Blithe Spirit*, by Noel Coward. Club members can save £3 on stalls and dress circle tickets (normally £7.50 to £11). Tel 01904 623568

LIVERPOOL Playhouse **Feb 20-21** **■ JOE MCGANN** stars in *One Fine Day* by Dennis Lumborg. The play tells the story of Eddie, a young father living apart from his wife and children. Not content with

This week's special offers

arranged visits, Eddie hatches a plan which will enable him to be a proper father — even if it is just for one day. Tickets £9 (normally £12). Tel 0151-709 8363

NOTTINGHAM Playhouse **Feb 13-17: 21-24** **■ A HEADY** atmosphere of romantic love and erotic madness pervades *Twelfth Night*, Shakespeare's festive and poetic comedy of mistaken identity. The play is directed by David Pountney, whose work with English National Opera has made him one of the world's leading opera directors. Theatre Club members who buy one full-price ticket will get a second ticket at half-price (normally £9.50 and £11.50). Tel 0602 470882

CHICHESTER Festival Theatre **Feb 22-25** **■ ADAPTED** from the novel by George Eliot, *Shared Experience* Theatre's production of *The Mill On the Floss* tells the moving and passionate story of the wild and clever Maggie and her practical and

earnest brother, Tom. Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £12.50 to £16.50) for evening performances on Feb 22 and 24, and Feb 23 and 25 matinees. Tel 01243 781312

CARDIFF New Theatre **Feb 28-29** **■ HARRIET WALTER** and Clare Higgins lead the National Theatre's production of *Lillian Hellman's* controversial *The Children's Hour*. The play depicts the hysterical and vicious witch-hunt that occurs when a vengeful schoolgirl claims that her two women teachers are lovers. Theatre Club members can buy tickets in the front stalls for £7 (normally £16). Tel 01222 384890

LONDON Cockpit Theatre **Feb 23** **■ Tickets** £6 (normally £8.50). Tel 0171-402-5081

BRIGHTON Komedia **Feb 16** **■ Tickets** £5 (normally £7.50). Tel 01273 670030

HOW TO BOOK AND JOIN

TO BOOK for any or all of this week's special offers, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. In some cases there may be a transaction charge to cover postage. TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

ARTS

7

RECORDINGS: Glenn Miller's wartime sessions rediscovered; Marion from Manchester moves up; a double Purcell celebration

In the mood again

If there was ever the right moment for a Glenn Miller revival, this must be it. 50 years after the end of the Second World War, 50 years, too, after Miller's light aircraft disappeared in bad weather over the English Channel. In truth, however, there has never been much need for his music to be rediscovered. The many "ghost" bands that have continued to bear his name here and in America, and the sheer durability of the melodies and the slick arrangements, have seen to that.

As many a music historian has taken pains to point out, Miller's orchestra was not regarded as the best of its time in purely musical terms. Count Basie and Duke Ellington are just two of the bandleaders who could claim priority.

But if Miller has suffered a good deal at the hands of most of the jazz cognoscenti, there is no way of ignoring his achievement in fashioning a gently swinging sound that appealed to the broad swathe of dancers in the ballrooms. At a time of anguish and uncertainty, "In the Mood" and "American Patrol" offered a refuge. Hence the irony of a new set of wartime sessions being issued on a label called Happy Days.

Compilations of greatest hits regularly flow into the high street shops. Determined collectors all have their cache of rarities, many lifted from wartime broadcasts made by the larger and more ambitious unit Miller assembled after enlisting in the armed services in 1942. Yet for all this abundance, the appearance of a

JAZZ

Clive Davis

GLENN MILLER
The Lost Recordings
Happy Days CDHDA01/2

collection of Abbey Road performances from late 1944, *Glenn Miller: The Lost Recordings*, is certain to create a stir.

The tracks were originally laid down for the American Broadcasting Station in Europe, a London-based operation which beamed talk and music to the Continent. Miller, who was by this time an Air Force major, appeared in six "Music for the Wehrmacht" shows in all, the last made less than three weeks before his death. A mixture of hits and less familiar compositions, the tunes were interspersed with snippets of patriotic conversation with the programme's German hostess, known as "Ise". None of this was intended for commercial release.

The band also cut four numbers, including two songs with the vocalist Dinah Shore, which were never subsequently issued due to contractual tangles.

The full history of this archive material, laden with all the details of matrix numbers, mislaid master discs and red tape, is about as impenetrable as the fog that engulfed Miller's plane as it took off on its last flight. In his history of the Abbey Road studios, published a decade ago, Brian Southall referred to the mysterious disappearance of the masters, and rumours that they had been spirit-

ed away to the United States.

Suffice it to say that a high-quality copy subsequently came to the attention of Alan Dell, the BBC broadcaster and leading light of the Glenn Miller Society. His engineer, Ted Kendall, has made a sympathetic job of the restoration process. Compared with other Miller reissues — for example, some of the American broadcasts made for NBC — the Abbey Road sound quality is full-bodied and resonant. Surface noise, always a problem in the re-mastering process, only rarely impinges.

Widely regarded as Miller's finest achievement, the Allied Expeditionary Force band amounted to a full-scale concert ensemble, equipped with a lush, 20-strong string section. Violins were invariably restricted to stilled accompaniments in the swing era, but on Shore's rendition of *Stardust* they are used with grace and sensitivity. The orchestra's main asset, aside from the seamless orchestrations and immaculate musicianship, was its versatility, embracing the rampant tempo of *Jeep Jockey* and the unabashed sentiment of *Moonlight Serenade*.

This double album also contains assured German versions of such standards as *Long Ago and Far Away* and *Begin the Beguine*. Every little bit helped in the pursuit of Total War: Miller's pounding brass section alone must have been worth an artillery division. As Ise comments: "Das Klangtypisch amerikanisch (That sounds typically American)". Yes, indeed.



Glenn Miller, whose gently swinging music provided a refuge at a time of uncertainty — and sounds just as good 50 years later

POP SINGLES

David Sinclair

MARION

Sleep EP

London LONX 360**

A PROMISING major-label debut from the band who are being touted as Manchester's answer to Suede, *Sleep* comes crackling in with a fast, choppy riff overlaid by a "rather asthmatic harmonica line."

"If you believe your dreams'll come true/Then sleep is all you'll ever do," Jamie Harding sings with a Morrissey-influenced sneer, while the guitars slice through the song with merry hooligan vigour.

Two other tracks, *Father's Day* and *Moving Fast*, boast the same purposeful thrust, a sound reminiscent of the days when Pete Townshend used to write three-minute songs that had the power to explode like acid bombs.

Currently doing a tidy job on tour with Morrissey, Marion look and sound as if they are set for far bigger things soon.



Marion: big future

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

BILLY

King

4AD CAD 5004**

ONLY the might of Whitney Houston's *Bodyguard* soundtrack prevented Billy's debut album, *Star*, from topping the British chart two years ago. Yet the line-up which recorded that album had not played a single gig together, and at that point the group, led by Tanya Donelly, was still perceived as a mere offshoot of her half-

sister Kristin Hersh's band, Throwing Muses.

It's a different story with *King*. A solid year of touring and a million-selling album behind them, and Billy have evolved into a confident, road-hardened unit. Their awesome bass player, Gail Greenwood, who wasn't featured on *Star*, has knocked what used to be a rather fussy rhythm section into much leaner shape. And Donelly has co-written (with Greenwood or Thomas Gorman) a collection of songs with a cool, assured lustre.

Inevitably, though, they have lost the gauche, slightly quirky quality which was part of *Star*'s charm, and any artistry in the song arrangements have been rigorously ironed out, making *King* a much more direct and conventional sounding collection than its predecessor.

Donelly's lyrics are still woven through with strange riddles, and there are moments of relative calm during the ethereal *The Bees* and the dreamy verses of *Red*. But more typical are the galloping rhythms, chiming guitars and catchy choruses of *Puberty*, *Super-Connected* and the single, *Now They'll Sleep*.

BAROQUE

Stephen Pettit

GARDINER PURCELL

COLLECTION

Soliists, Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra, English Baroque Soloists/Gardiner

Erato 4599-96371-2

(8 discs)***

A HENRY PURCELL

COMPANION

Various artists

Harmonia Mundi HMX

2901528-33 (6 discs)***

STRANGE: even though the amount of the earlier composer's surviving music is far less than that of the later composer, no record company has done for Purcell in 1995 what Philips did for Mozart in 1991 and promised a complete edition. This oversight has less to do with the respective merits of each — in different ways the one is as great as the other — than with their relative marketability.

Two companies with perhaps the largest back-catalogues of Purcell, Erato and Harmonia Mundi, are celebrating the tercentenary with boxes of re-releases which succeed in their dual purpose of tempting the novice and indulging the experienced at minimum expense.

If on balance I would prefer to invest in the Harmonia Mundi selection, that is because Erato's box has two limitations. Firstly, it doubles



Gardiner: characterful

up as a record of the development of the conducting and performance practices of John Eliot Gardiner: he is the only conductor in the set, so that we get nobody else's point of view. Secondly, it concentrates only on Purcell's theatre music and secular odes, where Harmonia Mundi's box surveys a wider variety of genres.

For Gardiner aficionados, it is nevertheless fascinating to be reminded of how things were in those days when he eschewed gut strings and bows that curved the wrong way round, and preferred an unashamedly Romantic kind of opulence; days when the Monteverdi Choir was a good deal larger and a good deal less incisive than it is now.

The earliest disc, of the 1694 Ode for Queen Mary's Birthday, *Come ye Sons of Art*, and of music for Queen Mary's funeral, dates from 1977, and shows Gardiner at his most Leppard-like. Two discs originally published in 1980 and both recorded in February 1979 show the revolution at a crucial stage. Music from *The Tempest* still has the Monte-

verdi Orchestra playing modern instruments, though by this time Gardiner has made concessions to the camp of the historically informed. But for the lovely semi-opera *The Indian Queen*, completed after Purcell's sudden and untimely death by his brother Daniel, his period-style band, the English Baroque Soloists, make their bow; and what light and crispness they bring to this music.

Of course, Gardiner's way with Purcell has since become even more characterful, at once leaner and richer, as his splendid, hugely appealing account of *Hail Bright Cecilia* (first released in 1983), prefaced with the impossibly slight and joyous masque for that most serious of Shakespearean tragedies, *Timon of Athens* (1988), and the fine, complete account of *King Arthur* (1985), all amply testify.

The fact that Harmonia Mundi includes only the Deller Consort's disc of excerpts from *King Arthur* is a minus point, though I find the raw sound of The King's Musick, an original instrument band directed by Roderick Slingsby, appealing. This period piece is complemented by another, Alfred Deller's Purcell recital from 1979, with a continuo team including William Christie at the harpsichord. The sound that affected Tippett when he first heard Deller sing back in the Forties can still haunt.

The remainder of the collection is more recent. Philippe Herreweghe and the Collegium Vocale released their clean accounts of some of Purcell's better known English anthems in 1993, the same year that John Butt's enterprising disc of organ works, made at the O'Neill Collection of Historic Organs at the University of California, Berkeley, first appeared. This more intimate aspect of Purcell's art is further exemplified in London Baroque's 1990 recital of string works, fulsomely though lithely played, while the set is worthily completed by William Christie's 1986 account with Les Arts Florissants of the one and only true Purcell opera, *Dido and Aeneas*, crowned by a reading of *Dido's Lament* by Guillemette Laurens which oozes all the emotion one could possibly want from any performance in any style.

SO PERSUASIVE and intensely moving was Claudio Abbado's Mahler Ninth with the Berlin Philharmonic at last year's Proms (repeated on the radio recently) that any new arrival in the catalogues has a great deal to live up to. Neither of these new discs eclipses Abbado, let alone Bernstein, but it is — and this

may surprise some — Sinopoli and the Philharmonia who come closer.

In the opening movement Sinopoli — aided by the marvellous sound created by the DG engineers — is better at catching the wild ecstasies in the periodic outbursts. However, in the subdued passages in between he unfortunately loses his way, with too protracted a line. Masur (in a live performance on a single disc — Sinopoli's occupies two) keeps his thread better here, but then his accounts of the section marked "Mit Wür" ("with rage") passes for nothing, where Sinopoli is ideally impetuous and incandescent.



Masur: lacks intensity

Honours are more even in the belligerent Rondo Burleske, but in the Adagio finale Masur is again left standing. His reading lacks intensity even at the big climaxes; nor is he able to bring out significant detail, such as the strident horn solo at bar 17. Sinopoli is far more impressive here and also succeeds in maintaining the momentum between the high points (his downfall in the first movement).

Apart from his bizarre handling of portamenti later in the movement (slow slides over the whole extent of a bar, sounding like police sirens), Sinopoli's performance can be safely recommended and is deserving of attention. It comes with a perceptive note by Peter Franklin.

OPERA

John Higgins

MILLOCKER

Der Bettelstudent

Streich/Holm/Gedda/Prey/

Unger/Graunke Symphony Orchestra/Allers

EMI 5 65387 2 (2 CDs)***

Gaspardone

Rothenberger/Prey/Wewel/

Munich Radio Orchestra/

Wallberg

EMI 5 65363 2 (2 CDs)**

CARL Millöcker began his career as a flautist at Vienna's Josefstadt Theatre. But he soon realised that the quick way out of the obscurity of the orchestra pit was to compose operettas rather than play them. His popularity lasted until the 1930s, when a couple of his pieces were filmed, and there is a soft spot for him still in German-speaking countries. Millöcker filled his scores with marches and waltzes, strike-up-the-band music straight from those early days in the theatre. Vienna's Volksoper has been a notable supporter with *Der*

Bettelstudent (*The Beggar Student*) and *Gaspardone* in the fairly recent repertoire.

EMI's recordings of these two works both stem from Munich, which may raise a Viennese hackle or two, but the casts are generally good enough to make the rest of us content. Difficult to imagine a better set of male principals than EMI engaged in 1968 for *Der Bettelstudent*, Millöcker's masterpiece, although Ariola ran it quite close when Robert Stolz recorded the work.

Nicolai Gedda is exuberant in the title role of Symon, the student who lends a hand to the Poles in throwing off the Saxon yoke in 18th-century Cracow. The high Cs ring out, and Symon's joy in the last act at being penniless but free as a bird sounds almost credible. No student grants here.

Gerhard Unger is well contrasted in the second tenor part and Hermann Prey gives a richly comic performance as the Saxon governor, Ollendorf, who gets his comeuppance but is also assigned the score's most famous number, "Ach, ich hab'sie". A waltz, of course. Note, too, Karl Böttner as Enrich, a jolly jailer and close cousin of Froch in *Fledermaus*.

Millöcker did not repeat the success of *The Beggar Student*, which followed a couple of years later. The film plot, about a titled lady wooed and won by a "bandit", has much in common with Auber's once popular *Fra Diavolo*. *Gaspardone* was re-worked 30 years after Millöcker's death, and that is the version used here. But it has moments, and most of them go to the baritone as the Stranger, suspected of being the bandit Gaspardone, who turns out to be a provincial governor in disguise, finding out if any shenanigans are going on at the town hall.

Hermann Prey turns in another sturdy performance. He is excellently supported by Günther Wewel as the mayor and Martin Fink as the tenor support. Anneliese Rothenberger is sorely pressed by the Countess Carlotta. She was in her late fifties when the recording was made and it shows. What a pleasure, though, to hear artists such as Gedda and Prey in this music long before the dread word "crossover" was invented.

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Since 1993, the riches have included its outstanding Tchaikovsky Quartets (4509-90422-2), its Brahms (90899-2) and its Haydn *Seven Last Words* (one of my 1994 Records of the Year on 92373-2). Now, just in time to top up the box, come the Schubert String Quintets (94504-2) and the Brahms String Quartet No 2 with the Piano Quintet (974611-2).

These two latest releases reveal an ensemble whose ever-accumulating wisdom and sharpening insights show no signs of being wearied by age or decayed by custom.

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Pianist Elizavira Virsaladze joins the Borodin Quartet for the Brahms Piano Quintet. In its hands, the work can even recall the Schubert in the minimal movement of bow on string in the slow movement, and the finest of harmonic threads drawn out at the start of the finale. The Quartet No 2 epitomises so much within the Borodin voice: lean yet warm, mellow yet transparent, and moving with a mutually scented, instinctive sense of pace and direction.

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THE TIMES



In harmony: Matthias Bamert conducts the London Mozart Players

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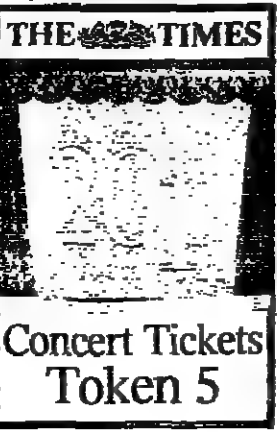
On March 16 Matthias Bamert conducts Mozart's *Piano Concerto No 37 in B flat* and *Six Minuets* as well as Beethoven's *Symphony No 1 in C*. The programme on May 25 includes Mozart's *Symphony No 34 in C* and Wit's *Jena Symphony*.

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WEEKEND SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

10

COLLECTING

Antique perfume bottles have always been highly prized but, as Michael Hall finds, modern mass-produced items are also popular

On the scent of bargains in a bottle



As Ruth Warner carefully pulls out the drawers of the cabinets containing her precious collection of scent bottles, faint perfumes steal into the air — the ghosts of the lavender water, eau de cologne or lily-of-the-valley once worn by beauties of the past. "I wish I knew more about the women who owned the bottles," she says. "I often try to imagine whose dressing table they stood on and what sort of life their owners led."

After 18 years of collecting scent bottles, Mrs Warner has lost count of the number she owns, but 43 large drawers have been filled, and there are shelves stacked with prized pieces and recent acquisitions. She collects not only bottles but also anything related to the perfume industry — including books, old advertisements, antique display cab-

inets and dummy bottles for counter display. She has boxes of 1920s perfumed cigarettes, a 1940s perfumed hairbrush and terracotta perfume bricks for scenting linen cupboards.

Her collection is now internationally renowned and draws visitors from the design and fashion worlds as well as *parfumeurs*, glass manufacturers and historians.

Collecting is a family pastime, and Mrs Warner's husband, Bob, has an important collection of antique radios. A chance purchase in 1977 of an unopened 1920s Yardley scent bottle at a local antiques fair led Mr Warner to suggest that here was a good subject for a new collection. This was astute advice. Antique scent bottles have been popular since the 19th century, but collectors concentrated on the highly prized — and now valuable — porcelain examples made in

the 18th century. In contrast, mass-produced glass bottles made from the 1850s onwards are a recent enthusiasm.

The immense variety of this material has its origins in the introduction of artificial ingredients for scents in the mid-19th century. This led to an expansion in the range of brands, all of which had to be given a distinctive personality by their name and packaging. New technology meant that the glass industry was able to respond by mass-producing highly decorative bottles at very little cost. The result is a rich field for collectors, with the added attraction that contemporary material is every bit as inventive and delightful as the antiques.

Although Mrs Warner confesses to a special love of the 1920s and 1930s Art Deco designs that are now highly coveted by collectors, these



Ruth Warner has spent 18 years building up her collection of scent bottles, counter displays (left), books, old advertisements and antique cabinets



A popular scent spray, which dates from the 1940s

form just one of many distinct groups in her collection. English material is a speciality and Mrs Warner has impressive displays of early Boots and Yardley bottles. One of her great enthusiasms is Bourjois's famous "Evening in Paris" scent. As well as 1940s examples of the midnight-blue bottles in their original boxes lined with white satin, she has a charming group of boxes made of Bakelite in the 1930s and 1940s in such appropriate evening shapes as owls or dancing slippers. "These are like gold-dust," Mrs Warner says. "You won't find them for less than £50 now."

Despite the growing number of collectors of 20th-century scent bottles, there are few organised groups. In America there is the International Perfume Bottle Association, but there is no collectors' club in Britain. Mrs Warner relies on contacts with other collectors and those in the perfume industry to add to her collection.

Car boot sales have now replaced back-street junk shops as places to make the best finds, although it's still possible to pick up interesting bottles at collectors' and antique fairs, usually for only a few pounds. However, anybody with some knowledge can still find bargains: Mrs Warner recently paid only 50p at a local market stall for a rare unopened 1920s cologne bottle still with its original miniature cork-screw for removing the cap.

New collectors are most likely to find large dressing-table atomisers. If unusual, decorative and in good condition, these can now fetch up to £300. It is hard to provide precise guidelines about prices in such a varied field, but some of the most highly-sought-after items have reached spectacular prices at auction: one buyer recently paid £43,000 for a Lalique flask, a world record for a scent bottle. Prices in the hundreds of pounds are common for rare bottles from celebrated firms such as Cöty, Schiaparelli, Dior or Guerlain, as these are eagerly



Each brand has its own distinctive bottle design

collected on the Continent — a bottle of "Miss Dior" in its original mirrored box is worth between £800 and £1,200.

Bottles in their original packaging fetch the highest prices, and condition is important. "But never wash a perfume bottle," Mrs Warner



High prices are paid for bottles in their original packaging, such as these 1920s perfumes

says. "Even small traces of scent make it more interesting to collectors."

But collectors don't have to concentrate on the chic *parfumeurs*. Mrs Warner has a charming group of pottery bottles produced as tourist souvenirs and is much attracted by the off-beat and unusual, ranging from a rare "Did-dums" bottle in the form of a tiny-tot designed by Mabel

Lucie Atwell, to cologne bottles produced for First World War first-aid kits.

Most delightful of all, perhaps, is an unexpected link between her interests and those of her husband — Mrs Warner lifts the top off what appears to be a miniature Bakelite 1930s radio to reveal three tiny scent bottles.

● The author is the architectural editor of Country Life.

□ Ruth Warner's collection, at Ashford in Kent, may be visited by appointment (call 01233 636185). She will be giving a lecture on the history of scent bottles at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7, at 1pm on March 30. This is one of the events being mounted in conjunction with the exhibition "Heavenly Scent", organised by the Comité Français du Parfum, at the RCA from March 24 to April 17. It then tours to Glasgow, Brighton, Cardiff, Manchester and Edinburgh. For more information, call 0171-793 0373.

□ Contact the International Perfume Bottle Association at PO Box 187, Galena, Ohio 43021 0187, USA.

□ The best short introductory text is *Scent Bottles* by Alexandra Walker (Shire Publications, 1994). There is a new comprehensive book, *The Art of Perfume: Discovering and Collecting Scent Bottles*, by Christine Mayer Lefkowitz (Thames and Hudson, 1994), and two books published by Schiffer in America: Jacqueline Y. Jones North's *Perfume, Cologne and Scent Bottles* (1986) and *Commercial Perfume Bottles* (1987).

□ There are no public collections of 20th-century scent bottles in Britain, but the museum of the glass manufacturer Baccarat at 30b rue de Paradis, Paris 75010 has a comprehensive display of perfume bottles.



Unopened bottles are highly sought-after

THE TIMES Win a bottle of perfume



WHEN Cacharel, the French perfume house, introduce new fragrances the design of the bottles is given almost the same care and attention as the scent itself.

Today we offer readers the chance to win a bottle of Cacharel perfume, worth up to £20.

Cacharel pour l'Homme is a blend of lavender, nutmeg, sandalwood and cedar and comes in a glass and metal flask.

Anais Anais combines hyacinth, orange blossom, jasmine and rose — plus sandalwood, incense, cedar and iris. The perfume comes in a rounded bottle of white opaline glass, decorated with flowers.

Loulou, named after a silent film character played by Louise Brooks, has vanilla, incense, sandalwood, musk, heliotrope, jasmine, orange blossom, cassia and ylang ylang. Its blue opaline bottle has a bright red stopper.

Eden, created by the perfumier Jean Guichard, combines waterlily, lotus and rush with flowers and fruits plus patchouli in a green opaline bottle with a golden stopper.

We have 100 bottles of Cacharel perfume to be won. To enter the contest, send the answers to the questions below on a postcard with your name and address to: Times Perfume Contest, 5 Brittons Court, London EC8B 1NG. Please state which of the four perfumes you would prefer to receive. The winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by the closing date of February 20, 1995. Usual Times Newspaper competition rules apply.

The questions:
1) Name one of the ways in which perfume makers extract the essential oils from flowers and plants.
2) In which century did the use of perfume become commonplace in Europe?

Parfumes
(cacharel)

SALE ROOM



□ The Fine Art and Antiques Fair, starting on Tuesday at Olympia in London, has a Gallic feel, with a contingent of French dealers offering continental furniture at £500 to £150,000. A pair of 18th century chinoiserie Venetian doors is priced at about £20,000.

□ Also on Tuesday, Christie's South Kensington devotes a sale to fans, the most valuable being one decorated with three vignettes of ladies, dressed and nude, by the turn-of-the-century artist Charles Conder (£1,500 to £2,000).

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171 581 7611); Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5 (0171-370 8189).

Thursday, February 23.

PROPERTY

13

Restoring an Edwardian terrace house to its former glory is a time and money-consuming process

Dirty weekends with a difference

First he bought the wardrobe, now he has the house to match. The wardrobe is an Arts and Crafts creation with handsome copper strapwork, and it is one of Martin Harrison's prized possessions. The house is an Edwardian terrace building, but many of its original features were destroyed by the previous owners.

"The wardrobe has finally found a good resting place," Mr Harrison said. "I have had it for years but it has never fitted in anywhere I lived before." His wardrobe is made of satinwood by Shapland and Pether of Barnstaple, and has a copper panel with an exploding poppy design — a favourite icon of the Arts and Crafts movement. The same exploding poppy design decorates the grand wooden fireplace in the Harrison's main bedroom — one of the few original features that was still intact when they moved in.

If Mr Harrison, a graphic designer, is at a loss what to do, or wants to contemplate the problems of restoring his house, he polishes a bit more of the copper on his Shapland and Pether wardrobe. This thoughtful activity has been going on for several years and still there is a dull patch at the top that needs finishing. Mr Harrison is a



The Edwardian terrace house

perfectionist and he is working through the whole house in the same way, inch by inch, restoring its Edwardian decor.

The house had been radically modernised by the previous owners, who tore out chimney breasts in the downstairs rooms without even putting in buttresses to support the chimney above. The roof was in a very poor state and the loft was full of bowls and buckets to catch the rain. The water tank had a decomposed bird in it. The downpipes from the gutters were full of rubble so that water overflowed from them and penetrated the walls. There were live wires in the bathroom and a 1970s corner bath which the Harrisons find uncomfortable whichever way they sit in it.

The house, which is located between Clapham and Wandsworth Commons in south London, had been on the market for two years when the Harrisons bought it. They paid £136,000 for it a year ago — reduced from £149,000. They badly needed more space and they could not afford anything else in the area. Now all their spare cash and much of their energy is going into its restoration. So far they have spent £13,000 and will probably

have to spend the same again before they are finished — but if they get it right the house could be worth £180,000 fully restored.

The Harrisons began with a 28-page report from a structural engineer that cost £500. The roof needed urgent work. The Harrisons did not want to spoil the original line of the roof even though they can only see it from one of the bedroom windows. They managed to find old chimney pots and cowl that matched the other houses in the street. They also rebuilt the chimney stacks to the original height — even though one of them will never be used — and used correct period pointing for the brickwork.

"The type of pointing favoured today would be visually wrong for an Edwardian house," Mr Harrison said. "We wanted to do right by the house. I sometimes just look out of the window and admire the roof because I feel so pleased with it."

Mr Harrison scratched away layers of old paintwork to uncover former colour schemes and found that viridian green was the colour used on the hall and stairs in Edwardian times followed in the 1920s or 1930s by muck brown. Under a shabby hallway carpet was the original black and white geometric tiled floor. His research also involved watching what other people throw on to skips and close observation of houses up and down the street. "I have got a lot of ideas about original features that way."

He salvaged an old scullery door from one skip and scullery boards from another. The mouldings will find a place in the Harrison's rear kitchen/dining room. However, the kitchen has become a matter of contention between the couple. Mr Harrison wants to find an old cast-iron range to provide authentic Edwardian heating, although the house already has modern central heating installed. "It is under discussion," said Mr Harrison looking across at his wife, who pulled a face. "I am



Top: restoration work in the kitchen. Above: Mr Harrison emerges from cleaning air vents in the cellar. Right: reinstating a chimney breast



Fact file: house restoration

□ It is important to get a full structural survey of the property.

□ Consider joining The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 37 Spital Square, London E1 (0171-377 1644). Annual subscription is £24. The society advises members on all types of buildings, not just listed ones. It produces technical pamphlets, including information on pointing stone and brick walling and the control of damp.

□ Brick Development Association, Woodside House, Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire

(0344 885657) publishes information on bricks and suppliers of bricks nationwide.

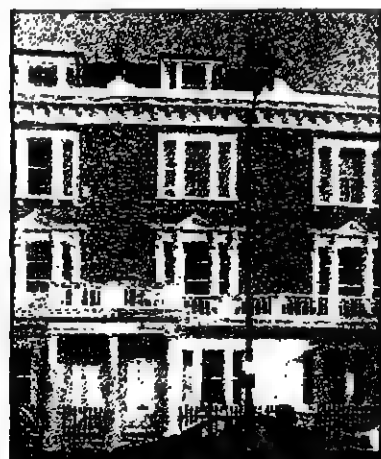
□ Architectural salvage yards are a good source of original features. Salvage News provides details of architectural salvage throughout Britain. Contact: Salvage, P. O. Box 1295, Bath BA1 3TJ.

□ Useful reading: *Period Details* by Judith and Martin Miller (Mitchell Beazley, £14.99) and *Collins' Complete Home Restoration Manual* by Albert Jackson and David Day (HarperCollins, £19.99).

OLIVER GILLIE



Newly built chimney stacks



SUTHERLAND ST, SW1 £525,000
A well planned, spacious house with a self-contained garden flat. 3 beds, dressing rm, 2 baths, 2 receps, kit. Flat: 2 rooms, kit, bath, gdn. Freehold
BELGRAVIA: 0171-730 9854



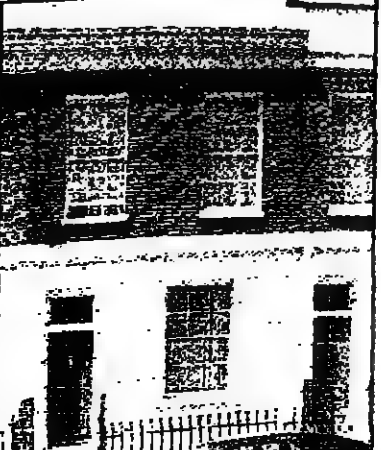
RUTLAND LODGE, SW11 £925,000
A fine detached Victorian house overlooking Battersea Park nr Albert Bridge. 5 beds, 3 baths, 4 receps, kit, west facing garden, summerhouse. Freehold
BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174



PARSONS GREEN, SW6 £525,000
A handsome house with views over the Green. 5 beds, 2 baths, double recep, kit, conservatory/dining rm, large cellar, 45ft w/facing garden. Freehold
FULHAM: 0171-731 4223



PRIMROSE HILL, NW1 £525,000
In a lovely crescent nr Regents Park, a listed early Victorian house. 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, Smallbone kit, front gdn, paved rear patio. Freehold
ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171-722 5556



COULSON STREET, SW3 £475,000
Quietly situated nr Sloane Square, a period house with a covered on-street parking space. 3 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, study, kit, clrm, patio. Freehold
CHELSEA: 0171-352 1484



HERONDALE AVE, SW18 £415,000
A handsome, spacious house near Wandsworth Common. 6 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kit, cellar, utility, clrm, 82ft garden & parking. Freehold
WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033

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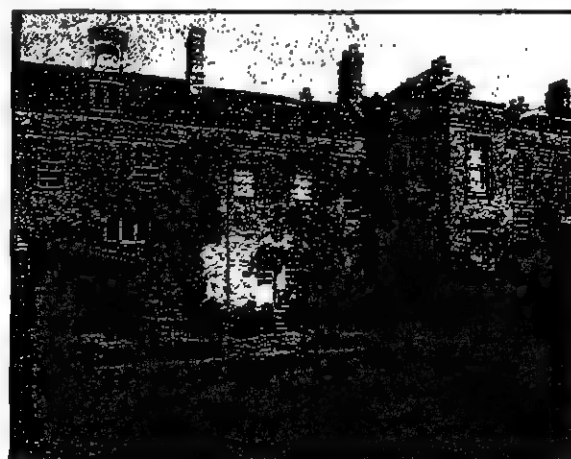
ARGYLL ROAD, W8 £1,450,000
An elegant and beautifully decorated Victorian house with a west facing garden. 6 bedrooms, dressing room, 3 bathrooms, 44ft drawing room, dining room, Smallbone kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom. Freehold
KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705

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0171-493 4106 FAX: 0171-629 6071

RENTALS

QUEEN'S GATE PLACE, SW7 £500 p.w. An elegant 1st floor flat with high ceilings in a period building. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, reception, kitchen/breakfast room. Unfurnished	MEDWAY STREET, SW1 £325 p.w. A selection of flats in a new development in Victoria. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, reception, kitchen, underground parking. Unfurnished
CENTRAL LONDON: 0171-491 4311	
HALL ROAD, NW8 £650 p.w. A newly refurbished apartment in a well maintained portered block. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception, kitchen. Furnished or Unfurnished	HAMPSTEAD, NW3 £525 p.w. A penthouse flat in a converted house in a sought-after road in Hampstead. 2 beds, 2 baths, reception, kitchen, balcony. Furnished
NORTH LONDON: 0171-722 3336	
DORA ROAD, SW19 £576 p.w. A refurbished period house on 3 floors with a superb drawing room, landscaped garden & parking. 4/5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, shower room. Furnished/Unfurnished	SOMERSET RD, SW19 From £346 p.w. Two large apartments on the 6th & 10th floors overlooking Cobour Court at the All England Tennis Club. 2 beds, 2 baths, kit/b fast rm, balcony, underground parking. Furnished
WIMBLEDON & SURREY: 0181-946 9447	



WILTSHIRE
Nr Chippenham
An exceptional Grade I listed property, being the wing of a fine Baroque mansion. 5 beds, 3 baths, recep hall, 2 receps, kit/b fast rm with Aga, wine cellar, clrm/utility, south facing garden.

Price Guide: £250,000

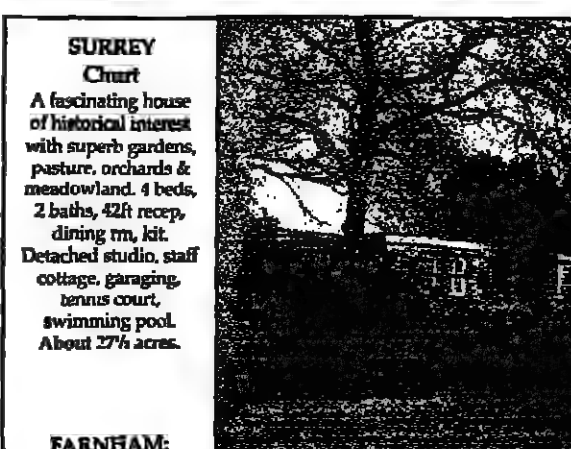
CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244



WEST SUSSEX
Old Beetham
A listed Queen Anne house in the village centre. 3/4 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, kit, ground flr flat bed, bath, 2 receps, kitchen, courtyard garden, private parking.
JSA: Jackson-Shops & Staff 01243 786316

Price Guide: £300,000

HEAD OFFICE: 0171-493 4106



BUCKS
Botsolph Claydon
A listed village house built about 200 yrs ago with a 1/2 acre garden overlooking countryside. 4 beds, bath, dressing area, 3 receps, playrm, kit/b fast rm, garage. Annex: bed, bath, kitchen/dining rm.

Price Guide: £215,000

OXFORD: 01865 311522



SURREY
Chart
A fascinating house of historical interest with superb gardens, pasture, orchards & meadowland. 4 beds, 2 baths, 42ft recep, dining rm, kit. Detached studio, staff cottage, garaging, tennis court, swimming pool. About 27 1/2 acres.

FARNHAM: 01252 737115

WEEKEND SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

14

BOOKS

Something to shout about

Giles Gordon on the writers left out in the cold by reviewers

Ibadan: *The Penkelemes Years: A Memoir 1946-1965* is a chaotic title for a sizzling passionate, arrogant and muddled book. Published not this week but last July, few will have heard of it. Let alone read it.

I became interested when one of my favourite publishers, Geoffrey Strachan of Methuen, confided sotto voce over lunch the other day that it had been reviewed by only one national daily, *The Guardian*, and only one weekly, *The Spectator*, as well as, thank heavens, in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. No doubt because of this paucity of coverage, *Ibadan* has sold just over 1,000 copies at hardback. How will the Minerva paperback fare in July?

Perhaps literary editors had difficulties in "assigning" it to reviewers. The first sentence of the author's exceedingly combative foreword reads: "*Ibadan* does not pretend to be anything but fiction, that much-abused genre which attempts to fictionalise facts and events, the proportion of fact to fiction being totally at the discretion of the author." The subversive use of discretion in a singularly indiscreet book is mastery, the author leading with his pug-nacious chin.

He continues: "My adoption of the genre stops short of the actual invention of facts or events, however, or the deliberate distortion of the history or character of any known figure." What is going on here? Is the book aspiring to literature — that is to say, more fiction than fact — or is it non-fiction, current affairs, polemic and politics? Although educated in the university of English life (Leeds University under the gentle Bonamy Dobrée, the Krays and Tom Dribben, of course, an East End pub with Joan Littlewood, that obnoxious bag-lady of theatrical genius in tow; discovering William Blake; reading scripts for the Royal Court) the author of *Ibadan* is Nigerian.

Wole Soyinka is one of the greatest of 20th-century writers, and in 1986 the first black African to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

The book's foreword continues to be bellicose. Soyinka is writing with invigorating passion and anguish about political events in Nigeria, certainly includ-

ing endless genocide. To indulge in fiction is possibly to save his own life, for he has — whether as political activist or reporter to the world of terrible events in his beloved country — spent years in prison, and later in undesired exile.

I am not suggesting that we all have the inclination to read the detailed (the lavish book is nearly 400 pages) accounts of the minutiae of the civil war in Nigeria. I am saying that *Ibadan* has to be more important than most easier books which are reviewed all over the place. It is important, in my view, because Soyinka is a major world writer.

I remember thinking when seeing some of his plays in the 1960s and 70s — *The Lion and the Jewel*, *The Road*, Peter Brooks's NT production of Soyinka's translation of *The Bacchae* of Euripides, starring Sir John Gielgud and a gigantic golden phallus of which Coral Browne famously remarked: "No one we know" — that he was the first contemporary writer to dare to use our language with the swashbuckling richness of the Jacobean dramatists.

Less concerned with subtlety than surtitles, Soyinka, a big man in every way, is a writer out of tune with our pinched, etiolated times. His prose and response to life and literature have more of the gushing pungency of the mango than the insidious squeeze of the sullen lemon.

The publicity and marketing departments of publishing houses are mostly impossibly overworked and what, ultimately, they can do to boost their imprints' wares is minimal.

Hundreds of different titles are published in the UK each week, and in some weeks thousands. There is no way even the most conscientious literary editor can notice more than a few titles on his or her pages although the general gripe, except from the authors and publishers of the noticed books, is that the same titles are reviewed everywhere. This is largely true because the education, tastes and sensibilities of literary editors at any one time are similar, and market forces dictate that certain books be reviewed and thus others not.

● Giles Gordon and the Public Lending Right: see below right

Sugar on the management pill

Stuck in an airport lounge, Russell Twisk bones up effortlessly on the stuff of a thousand executive-conference flip charts

spider's web. Apollo is the god of order and rules, a Greek temple is his symbol. Athena is task-orientated and is shown as a ner; while Dionysus is of the existential culture, and carries no explanation for his painter's palette symbol.

I read this book while stuck in the British Airways lounge at JFK. Outside snow ploughs were making pointless patterns through the blizzard, while inside customers were treated with Zeus-like disdain by BA, who told us nothing at all until a bright spark spotted on a screen that

■ **GODS OF MANAGEMENT AND THE AGE OF UNREASON**
By Charles Handy
Arrow Business Books, £6.99 each

all flights had been cancelled. It seemed the perfect place to study Handy's work. His gift is for finding vivid imagery to make even the most dull-witted of us feel cultured. There's nothing overly didactic about him; difficult concepts and language have solutions and vocabulary built in. He prompts and reminds you through-out. Those suffering short-term mem-

ory loss need have no fear, another reprise will be along in a minute. This work is destined to be plagiarised on a thousand flip charts. The definitions feel as though they might well be true, so that lightbulbs of recognition will flash up over the heads of executives: "That's me and my situation". There are plenty of case studies and quotes from other management experts; gurus merrily feed on each other's work and generously give credit (I plug you, you plug me). Dividing the business world into gods is, I guess, as valid as

any other arbitrary cake slicing. But it contains the huge contradictions and sweeping generalisations of horoscopes. It could have done with a good pencil editor to cut out pages of repetition.

In *The Age of Unreason*, Handy's text is change and his belief that it is "often the little things in life which change things most and last the longest". He asserts: "In an age of unreason there can be no certainty." After a while you become inured to these rapid aphorisms. Again, it suffers from the slack editing that haunts so many business books. Taken together, these two titles resemble the snacks available in the BA lounge at JFK — sugary, pleasant, easy to stomach, but no meat.

Drifter dancing to the Texas twist

Lucy Berrington on a fairy tale pretending to be a travel book

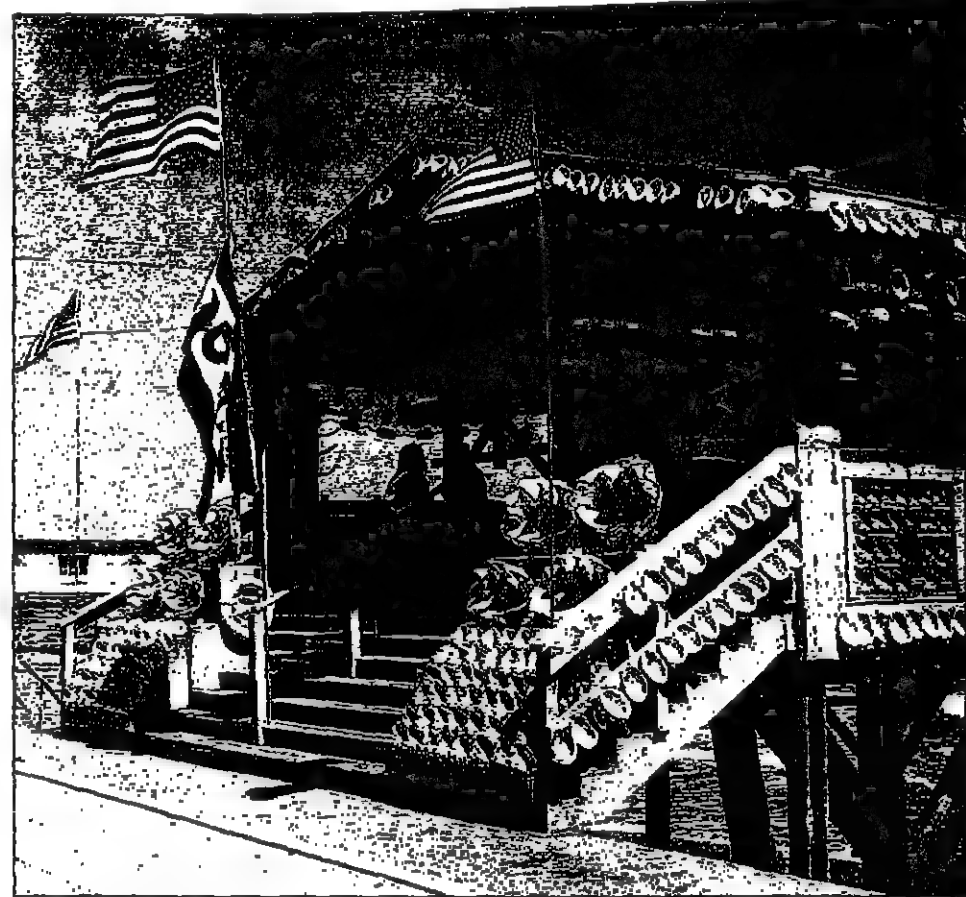
■ **THE HOUSE OF BLUE LIGHTS**
By Joe Roberts
Bantam, £14.99

vate himself. "A drifter by nature" says the jacket blurb, and his relaxation comes across, but the writer is acutely observant, less concerned with being seen to have a ball than with watching other people jive and twist through dances of their own.

The story of Galveston Bay, the one-time homeland of the Karankawa Indians whose rumoured cannibalism delayed the intrusion of the European colonists, is thor-

oughly researched. But there are no noticeable borders marking handed-down accounts from personal experience, no obligatory spurts of the academic interrupting the local colour. The account of the tropical tempest of 1900 that killed 6,000 people, and of an ill-received visit by Oscar Wilde, are as convincingly crafted as the tales of buried treasure, shipwreck, piracy and neighbourhood demons. The stories and characters are not stereotyped but delivered with understated humour and canny dialogue.

Roberts, one imagines, could not journey anywhere resenting the people or place. Yet deprived of travel, he would surely continue to write. The book — his second, after *Three-Quarters of a Footprint*, a travelogue of southern India — is styled like a novel; we must hope that a novel will come next.



Shell shop on Galveston Bay, where Joe Roberts spent his hypnotic Texan summer



Greyhounds doing trials at Wimbledon before auction

Barking up the wrong tree

THE problem facing those people who want to write books about the sport they love is this: how much is there, really, truly, honestly, to say? There are few sports — cricket maybe, chess, boxing — interesting enough to merit whole books about them. Greyhound racing is not among them.

Nick Hornby, to whose *Fever Pitch* this book has been compared, overcame the mundanities of football by writing about the sociology of the game, about himself, and about masculinity. Laura Thompson occasionally trots down the same route, and offers glimpses of how good this book could have been if

■ **THE DOGS: A Personal History of Greyhound Racing**
By Laura Thompson
Vintage, £6.99

she had gone further and with greater conviction.

She is slow out of the trap, with an introductory chapter overburdened with statistics amassed to convince the reader of the popularity of greyhound racing. One senses the hand of a sceptical editor or agent here — whoever made the decision was wrong: all this information very nearly prevents you from getting stuck into what Thompson really has to say, which is that dog racing is interesting, rather than merely popular, that it

is not what it was, and that it has had a bad press.

Her comments on the media in general, and its reporting of dog racing in particular, are some of her most acute. "It smoothes and smudges it with irony and familiarity... which take the power away from the creators and put it into the hands of the observers, making them cynical before they have ever been innocent."

That is a spot-on summary of the media's attitude not just to what it considers to be fringe sports, but to pretty much any activity out of the middle-class mainstream. The book could have done with more of that, and less on the

specific triumphs of Mick the Miller and Ballyregan Bob.

It could have done with more of Laura Thompson, too. The book is subtitled "A Personal History of Greyhound Racing" but it is not nearly personal enough. The characters — herself, her parents, the dog men she admires — do not come to life. We learn that she was a "dog child" of a dog man, a wealthy one with a Rolls Royce, and that she rejected this life as a teenager only to return to it in her late twenties to write this book. Ample scope there, I would have thought, for comment on class, roots and snobbery.

ROBERT CRAMPTON

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THE Velcro effect is an unfortunate syndrome acquired through reading lengthy novels. Take this example: "I can't explain it, but there's a certain sense of doom connected to being a woman." Bearable in isolation, the phrase becomes truly awful when paired with this reply: "You know, Bea, it's not so easy being a guy either." Kind of sticks in your head. Although *The Witches Hammer* details the evils of black magic, one cannot help thinking that a spot of corrective voodoo on such dialogue

Devil's disciples

■ **THE WITCHES' HAMMER**
By Jane Stanton Hitchcock
Hamish Hamilton, £15.99 (hbk); Penguin, £4.99 (pbk)

could jolly things along.

Otherwise, Hitchcock's second novel makes for a real gripper. Take one feisty heroine out to avenge her father's murder, add a 15th-century misogynistic manual of black

magic (which exists in real life, stir in a sinister brotherhood and sprinkle with a few grisly killings. The witch hunts of medieval times are instantly transported to 20th-century America, with feminists cast as the witches.

Like her heroine Beatrice, Hitchcock is strong on historical knowledge but a bit ropey in the personal relationships department. To call Beatrice's

lithe Hispanic lover a "sleek jungle cat" who has awakened the "wolf" in her, is to assume an Olympian will on the part of the reader not to guffaw.

But despite the oddities, Hitchcock has succeeded in weaving a neat and unpredictable web. There is also an intelligent exploration of the darker side of female sexuality. Ignore the glib feminist ideology and take the book for what it is — a riveting appointment with the devil.

ANJANA AHUJA

Tuppence lost

EVERY author will agree with Giles Gordon (Books, January 28) that the funding for Public Lending Right should be substantially increased.

His final point is trickier, however. The author must be responsible for registering his own books. PLR's computer can only work with the information provided. It depends on the ISBN with which every new book is issued, but these are sometimes changed between their original listing in the British Library's British National Bibliography and final publication. Some titles never appear and their numbers are re-used. Second editions and reprinted paperbacks are not listed, nor are all cases where two or more contributors are involved. The Registrar and his staff try to help by reminding authors that something they have written may be eligible for PLR, but only the author is certain to know the facts.

I have just missed out on a year's PLR earnings. But I blame myself, not the system.

PHILIP ZIEGLER

● The author is chairman of the Public Lending Right Advisory Committee

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK			
	LAST WEEK	NO.	
1 SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix)	£16.99	1	2
2 FREE TO TRADE Michael Ridpath (Heinemann)	£10	0	1
3 THE PRIVATE LIFE OF PLANTS David Attenborough (BBC)	£17.99	2	3
4 THE CRUSADES Terry Jones (BBC)	£17.99	5	2
5 WRITING HOME Alan Bennett (Faber)	£17.50	3	12
6 LONG WALK TO FREEDOM Nelson Mandela (Little Brown)	£20	4	5
7 INSOMNIA Stephen King (Hodder)	£15.99	7	8
8 GEOFF HAMILTON'S COTTAGE GARDENS Geoff Hamilton (BBC)	£18.99	10	2
9 BATTLE FLAG Bernard Cornwell (HarperCollins)	£9.99	6	3
10 THE ART BOOK: VISUAL DOCUMENTARY (Phaidon)	£19.99	0	2
PAPERBACK			
1 AN IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCE Mary Wesley (Black Swan)	£5.99	1	3
2 INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE Anne Rice (Warner)	£4.99	6	3
3 MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW Peter Høeg (Flamingo)	£5.99	11	13
4 OTHER PEOPLE'S MARRIAGES Rosie Thomas (Penguin)	£5.99	3	3
5 COMPLICITY Iain Banks (Abacus)	£6.99	19	18
6 DECIDER Dick Francis (Pan)	£4.99	9	5
7 STARGATE Sean Devlin (Signet)	£4.99	8	3
8 FLAT STOMACH PLAN Rosemary Conley (Arrow)	£7.99	2	3
9 THE POWER Colin Forbes (Pan)	£4.99	13	3
10 BIRDSONG Sebastian Faulks (Vintage)	£5.99	10	24
11 THE FERMATA Nicholson Baker (Vintage)	£5.99	18	3
12 CELESTINE PROPHECY James Redfield (Bantam)	£7.99	0	1
13 THE FIGHTING MAN Gerald Seymour (HarperCollins)	£4.99	0	3
14 SLOW WALTZ IN CEDAR BEND Robert James Waller (Mandarin)	£4.99	0	1
15 HIGHWAY CODE (HMSO)	£0.99	0	1
16 COPPERHEAD Bernard Cornwell (HarperCollins)	£4.99	4	2
17 WILD SWANS Jung Chang (Flamingo)	£7.99	0	34
18 MAGIC EYE 1: A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD (Penguin)	£4.99	0	1
19 AGAINST A DARK BACKGROUND Iain Banks (Orbit)	£4.99	17	3
20 LIFE POINTS Peter Cox & Peggy Brasseur (Bloomsbury)	£4.99	7	2

Derwent May reviews the critics

5.5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet papers

4.5 Madness beckons: In *An Anthropologist on Mars* (Picador, £15.99), Oliver Sacks

tells the stories of seven brain-damaged people. "It is part of the book's charm to convince us that these people are geniuses of a kind," said Hugh Haughton in *The Independent on Sunday*. "For Sacks it is a person's use of their illness, not its removal, that is paramount," wrote Adam Phillips in *The Sunday Times*. "Brilliantly describes the human spirit as it appears in the most unlikely of people," said Stuart Sutcliffe in *The Daily Telegraph*, and he recommended the book to arrogant Artificial Intelligence workers "who think their programs are compatible to the human mind." In *The Times*, Nigel Hawkes said that we "wonder here at the variety of human experience". However, there were dissidents. In *The Observer* Andrew Motion regretted that Sacks' "delight in stories overwhelms his curiosity about the emotional component of physical conditions" and in *The Financial Times* Raymond J. Dolan agreed that there was "very little unmasking of the inner world of the book's subjects". Col cms: 337

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BOOKS

15

Gonzo meets the President

The political circuit's off-beat jester is falling flat, says Guy Walters



John Updike: seduced by Latin American exoticism

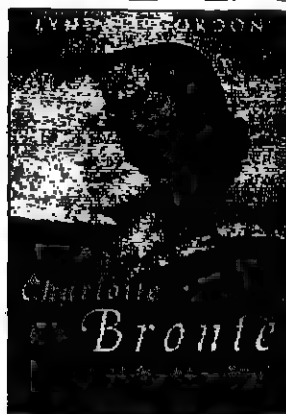
■ BRAZIL
By John Updike
Penguin, £5.99

In this, his sixteenth novel, Updike succumbs to the seductive exoticism of Latin America and the magical realism of its literary traditions. He tells the tale of a love affair between Tristão, a tough black street boy from the shanty towns of Rio, and Isabel, the blonde, blue-eyed daughter of a wealthy politician, who, after a first meeting on Copacabana beach, pledge themselves to each other eternally.

The unlikely couple set off on an allegorical journey which flirts with almost every cliché of lifestyle and landscape offered by the vast and varied land of Brazil. They sample the hedonism of Rio, the industrial squalor

of São Paulo and the sanitised monumentalism of Brasília. They live the feverish lives of gold prospectors, negotiate the perilous rainforests and undergo magical transformations by a shaman, before finally returning to Rio, their inner selves explored.

The narrative sometimes lapses into travelogue, dense with images which reach self-consciously towards authenticity. As the extravagant series of events jerks forwards, narrative continuity seems to be provided mainly by the explicit sexual encounters of the two lovers. Though Updike still shows flashes of his characteristic virtuosity, he should perhaps return to his native North America where his imagination is so at home.



Charlotte Bronte: A Passionate Life

By Lyndall Gordon
Vintage, £7.99

The usual view of Charlotte Brontë has been as a figure of pathos in the shadow of tombstones — her mother, four sisters and brother were dead by the time she was 33. Gordon, in no way plays down the deprivation and loneliness (the icy regime of the school for daughters of clergy in Lancashire, her rejection by lovers and publishers), but gives us a vital and eloquent portrait of a 19th-century woman who challenged the ossified mores of the time "through the licence of an alternative fictional world".

■ ADAM'S WISH
By Paul Micon
Black Swan, £5.99

Adam has been a best man six times. Instead of throw-

■ BLOOD SISTERS: The French Revolution in Women's

Memory By Marilyn Yalom

Pantheon, £12.99

The French Revolution's promise of liberty, equality, fraternity did not apply to women, who had to wait until 1945 for the vote. Thus, politics are of little interest to most of the 80 memoirists in this fascinating, tragic collage of women's experiences. What concerns these writers, whether aristocrats, bourgeois or peasant, are the epic human dramas they witnessed. The royal governess describes being taken prisoner with her charges, a servant girl gives a moving account of Marie-Antoinette's last hours, and a Vendée peasant turns soldier to avenge her slaughtered family.



Living Dangerously

By Katie Forde
Penguin, £4.99

The heroine, Polly Cameron, is 35 and celibate, having eschewed the sexual maelstrom in favour of a haphazard existence in a small Gloucestershire town. But, as is the way with the comforting familiarity of the Age-saga, the reader is in no doubt that Polly's calm is about to be shattered by a lantern-jawed hero who will turn her life upside down. We are not disappointed: the jaw in question belongs to wine merchant David Locking-Hill. Forde brings a witty touch of Mills & Boon wish-fulfilment to a tale of our times. Ideal bedtime reading.

Contributors: Rachel Campbell-Johnson, Jake Michie, Alison Burns, Hazel Leslie, Nicki Household, Lucy Leithbridge, Giles Coren

ing the bridal bouquet, his friends Didi and Norman throw him their star wedding guest — international sociable and budding starlet, the lovely Natalie. In a European caper of Walter Mitty proportions, the love-hungry young London solicitor finds himself escorting Natalie from swanky hotels in Paris to Riviera boutiques to a chaotic film-set on the Italian border. He gets no sleep, and almost no sex, but he certainly gets his name in the papers. Micon goes to town in a preposterous satirical adventure that cries out to be filmed.

■ FATAL OBSERVATIONS

By Catherine Merriman

Pan, £5.99

Ruth and Harry are an odd couple — she an articulate young solicitor, he a monosyllabic motorbike enthusiast who spends most of his time on the steps of his north London block of flats tinkering with his machine. They immediately arouse the interest, and soon become the friends, of their neighbour, 36-year-old college lecturer Jane. Harry's handsome, good-humoured and uncompetitive presence is quite a challenge to the other men in Jane's life. Merriman develops this cosy scenario into a study of male-female relations which starts off sharply funny and ends up very nasty indeed.

■ RED, RED ROBIN

By Stephen Gallagher

Bantam, £9.99

to map out the limits of her grave." Brrrrrr. Given that his work until now has had a very definite English sense of place — his excellent last book, *Nightmare*, was set around Morecambe Bay — the translation of this story to Pennsylvania and Louisiana is unexpected. But then perhaps, Dennis Nilsen notwithstanding, the serial killer is a particularly American institution.

At the risk of seeming obsessed, however, with the brain drain seduction of British writers by the American market, I cannot refrain from protesting at a good Lancastrian, a rigidly conforming to such transatlantic-speak and political correctness as "muffin", "row houses" and "Native Americans".

These, particularly when injected into the thought processes of an Englishwoman, even if she has lived in Pennsylvania for so long that she can no longer consider anywhere else home. I hope Mr Gallagher's fiction is just on an excursion, and will return to these shores presently.

That said, *Red, Red Robin* is a classic of the suspense genre, an obsessive read with a genuinely sinister central character to rival Psycho's Norman Bates, and enough surprises to keep you turning the pages as fast as your stomach will let you.

I quote: "And then, buried alive and unaware that she was slowly being eaten by gangrene, Theresa continued

THE WORST nightmares start out quietly: a hiccup in the flow of everyday life that suddenly reveals a yawning chasm on the road ahead. There is nothing more frightening than the realisation of how fragile ordinary lives can be in the face of an onslaught of murderous chaos.

When Ruth Lasseter, an attractive, youthfully middle-aged, professional woman having an affair with her boss finds herself in need of cover against his wife's suspicions at the annual dinner dance, she goes to an escort agency. But faced with the facts of life — in the lined faces of those available gentlemen of compatible age — the temptation to pluck out the Beau Brummel young enough to be her son is irresistible. What she has not bargained for is that HE might find HER irresistible.

That is the rise on scene for Stephen Gallagher's obliquely-titled new thriller, *Red, Red Robin*. As ever, Gallagher's prose is fluid and he has the keen ear for natural dialogue one might expect from a successful television script-writer (*Dr Who* and *Chimeria*). But over the course of his past few books he has been perfecting an almost visceral sense of horror, at its most gut-wrenching in this book in the description of a woman left to rot alive amid other bodies in a sealed septic tank.

I quote: "And then, buried alive and unaware that she was slowly being eaten by gangrene, Theresa continued

"THERE are a lot of ways to practise the art of journalism," writes Hunter S. Thompson, pioneer of "Gonzo" journalism, "and one of them is to use your art like a hammer to destroy the right people — who are almost always your enemies." In *Better Than Sex*, Thompson uses his hammer on Bill Clinton and the 1992 presidential campaign, which he describes as being "the slowest and laziest and least passionate struggle for the White House" he has ever witnessed.

So how does the author of the drug-crazed *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* make sense of it all? *Better Than Sex* veers away from narrative and binds this collection of memoirs, faxes and photographs with a "campaign time line" that lists events that Thompson believed to be crucial in the campaign. The inclusion of moments such as Ross Perot's withdrawal seems pertinent, but the fact that on September 7 the "baboon-liver recipient dies" does not. But then this is the essence of Thompson's style — he will fix almost psychotically on the trivial to reveal the big picture, or at least his view of it.

■ BETTER THAN SEX
By Hunter S. Thompson
Doubleday, £15.99

This is captured in his encounter with the gubernatorial Clinton. Thompson describes how he, P.J. O'Rourke and two other members of the *Rolling Stone* editorial board assemble in an Arkansas diner, where they share a drink with Little Rock's most celebrated.

Thompson gives Clinton a saxophone read, which Clinton drops on the table "like it was another half-eaten potato scrap... 'No more music,' he said firmly. 'Let's have some food, I'm hungry.'" Clinton's dismissive behaviour makes Thompson feel paranoid. But

"when the going gets weird, the weird turn pro", as the Gonzo motto reveals in the frontpapers, and Thompson is at his most vituperative and bitchy when he feels threatened.

In his correspondence with those such as George Stephanopoulos, Thompson comes over as a tragic figure, like an unironic Henry Root, pestered those in power with irrelevantities — and absurdities. Thompson is clearly having to live up to his role as the political circuit's off-beat jester, and the joke is perhaps wearing a little thin. He claims that he is a political junkie, but this is one addition that he should give up. Nevertheless, *Better Than Sex* nearly lives up to its title.



Hunter S. Thompson

Round up the usual characters

■ OLD MONEY
By Elizabeth Palmer
Century, £16.99 hbk, £5.99 pbk

Old Money is the first novel I have read this year which claims to be "in the tradition of Joanna Trollope and Mary Wesley", but it is unlikely to be the last.

Bookshop dump-bins that once showcased the works of the Misses Collins, Krantz and Conran in eye-stinging displays of hot pink now promote less voluptuous volumes in Trollope and Wesley-inspired jackets with the domesticated gloss of hard-boiled eggs, in which an inoffensive illustration is just such a jacket.

Imitation is a dodgy form of flattery. Although both Trollope and Wesley are concerned with surfaces — what people look like, what they eat and wear — and other superficialities that brand them as easy reading, they spend a considerable time fishing for truths and reeling them in. Their many imitators concentrate exclusively on the surfaces, which produces an altogether flatter kind of book.

The storyline of *Old Money* seethes with possibilities: two handsome young men on the prowl for rich wives; a manipulative crone queening it over her miserable middle-aged daughters in a crumbling pile in Northumberland; a quietly beautiful heroine, Caroline Barstow, trapped in a sour marriage to an unsuccessful and egotistical actor. Also in the cast are some familiar characters from the Age-saga repertory company.

The novel starts in a mood of icy drama with the death of Chloe Post, the heiress whom the hero, Morgan Steer, has unwisely wedded, and ends with a revelation that jolts him out of his sorrowful passion for Caroline. There are some brisk and witty sexual episodes: "Later on, but not much later on, feet in the air, as Morgan drove into her, and watching her lacquered toenails as he did so, Chloe was ambushed by her first and, as it was to turn out, last orgasm", and some pity comment on the bubble-bright world of Chloe's nasty mother.

But for much of the time the narrative spells out what we should be able to guess from the characters' actions and conversations.

PENNY PERRICK



Hailed by the German film industry as the new Dietrich, Zarah Leander (here in the 1937 film, *La Habanera*) first had to win over Goebbels. From *Tainted Goddesses: Female Film Stars of the Third Reich*, by Cinzia Romani (Spellmount, £12.95)

Slime and the Kennedys

AMERICAN TABLOID

By James Ellroy

Century, £15.99

emerge from the Ellroy mangle: thoroughly despicable, foul-mouthed, sex-driven, dirty-dealing, power-obsessed amoral opportunists without a kind thought between them. It is deeply repelling portraiture, yet mesmerising.

The story, such as it is, is one of outmoded political and criminal conspiracy, as seen by a few fictional characters, who include a killer in the pay of Hughes and Hoffa and a

players of the Kennedy era.

Ellroy taints them all with his patina of crudity and cynicism. That does not matter too much with the likes of Howard Hughes, J. Edgar Hoover, Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa and Jack Ruby, killer of Lee Harvey Oswald. It is unsettling, though, when Jack and Bobby Kennedy are given the same treatment.

The Kennedy brothers may not have been the pleasant people in America — indeed, we know they weren't — but even their critics would, I hope, wince at the way they

are applied to the real-life

Admirers of Ellroy's savage-

gripping crime novels know

he does not believe in the

understatement of language,

actions or emotions; not that

anyone behaves for other than

the basest of motives. What is

shocking about *American*

Tabloid is that his principles

are applied to the real-life

Stephen Bayley is mesmerised by the latest American lifestyle concept: how to live simply, and shave your legs

Self-help for the terminally hip

ONE OF the great frustrations of contemporary existence is that it is exceedingly complicated to acquire a simple life, and unreasonably expensive to maintain it. Any fool can surround himself with difficult schedules, mountains of ugly clutter and useless junk; but if you want to live in an environment of Cistercian purity, or simply wish to curl your toes in clean white sand, huge financial and practical resources are required.

Jeff Stone, a former vice-president of Vintage Books and of Alfred A. Knopf, and his business partner, Kim Johnson Gross, a former Eileen Ford model who rose, or maybe sank, to fashion editor of *Esquire*, know the problem. They are marshalling great steaming lumps of computing power to whizz their ascetic selves up the outside lane of the superhighway in the direction of what they believe will be the next new thing, the publishing-marketing elixir which will translate them from being slaves of complexity to masters of The Simple Life. Hence the invention of the *Chic Simple* series.

Chic Simple is not an idea to be patiently developed. It is a "concept" ready to be rolled out. Already, Stone and Gross are threatening to move into own-brand merchandising and own-brand stores.

Simple chic (which is, after all, what we are meant to be talking about) could be described as the current reaction to the vulgar commodity fetishism and style worship of the 1980s, but in fact it is just a dialect version of the same language. Successful self-help has always been the sure-fire, dead-cert way to dominate American bestseller lists. There is an unmistakable aroma of microchip-driven Elbert Hubbard here, but there is something else besides the ghost of the idea that this book is not so very different from those humiliating style guides and magazine features which ten years ago told you where to buy an Alvar Aalto vase.

The *Chic Simple* concept is to provide clear, thoughtful, no-nonsense guides to the practicalities of life, as viewed from a Manhattan loft. For those of us who have always regarded disposal of surplus as more aesthetically edifying than its collection, this is a concept that cannot possibly be rolled out too soon, but we are dubious about Stone's and Gross's credentials for doing it. Like Minimalist architecture which actually contains level after level of complex semantic nuance



So pure, so desirable: chic-simple tools

(and is, to boot, often structurally deceitful and functionally dodgy), the ratings-driven drive for simplicity is not so much self-defeating as utterly nugatory.

For so elegant an idea, it is surprising how the books grate. The authors' devotion to simplicity does not, alas, extend to clarity of graphics, discipline of typography, and purity of thought. Speaking personally, I cannot wait until I am next in San Diego, where, an appendix tells me, the Beauty Klinik Aromatherapy Day Spa (tel 0101 800 826 1392) does a mean manicure. Otherwise, stay-at-home morons will find the advice given about shaving their hairy

legs of consummate practical benefit. In summary, we are told:

wet leg

use soap

use razor (sharp better)

use moisturiser.

Truth be told, *Chic Simple: Body* is a mesmerisingly awful

combination of embarrassing how-to ("Nose hairs on men and women often grow longer with age"), wacky New Ageism ("Quirky bodies and older faces are assuming their rightful places among the beautiful"), cringe-inducing pseudo-intellectualism ("from Cyrano to Jimmy Durante...") and politically-correct sexism. One condition not mentioned in this workshop manual on the body is Terminal Hip.

■ CHIC SIMPLE: BODY

By Kim Johnson Gross & Jeff Stone

Thames & Hudson, £14.95

Also available:

CHIC SIMPLE: DESK

CHIC SIMPLE: NURSERY

CHIC SIMPLE: TOOLS

Thames & Hudson, £7.95 each

THURSDAY

Stella Tillyard on the young Disraeli: British and Irish fiction.

Plus poetry: the lives of Louis MacNeice and Marina Tsvetaeva; the new Michael Hutteritz

endemic among Stone and Gross and their (acknowledged) cast of 73 collaborators.

The smaller format *Chic Simple* books are much less ridiculous, although still full of mumbo-jumbo. Thus a desk "is not a desk but the symbol of an intimate, one-on-one relationship in a small space". The infuriating pretentiousness remains, but, being more compact, they somehow offend less.

In fact, the little volume on tools was so successful that, far from inspiring imitation of the series' aboriginal rubric "the more you know, the less you need", they set off in me an unassuageable itch to acquire and consume. I must finish now because my simple life will not be complete until I get a new tack hammer, strap wrench, socket set and 50m of Teflon tape. The *Chic Simple* version of simplicity is cupid-ity in a plain dress.

BG

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...the nas sunbake ones in mud-morning sun, and churr- same on the next tree and then came tumbling down into the A. • Robin Jacques is away.

OUTDOORS

17

Meat doesn't grow on trees

A few weeks ago, the butcher in our nearest village announced that he'd bought a cottage in France and was hanging up his cleaver for good. One more country butcher bites the sawdust. It was a haphazardly built wooden shop unsuited to any health inspector reared in the age of white tiles and stainless steel; but it had given good service for two generations.

Although its meat was fine, it was the banter we shall miss the most. Whether you bought a bone for the dog or a brisket for the pot, Peter gave every customer at least a minute's quick repartee that set you up for the morning (and, come to think of it, induced you to buy something you never intended).

Being a wise chap, instead of sending his goods and chattels to the local auction house, and parting with a few per cent of their modest worth, he crammed the whole lot into the butcher's shop and sat behind the pile, inviting passers-by to purchase. Where once had lain steaks now stood sofas; lamp shades where I remembered lamb chops; libraries of books where the livers had once

been proudly displayed. I had been browsing for a few minutes when he tapped me on the shoulder: "I have something out the back, you'll never guess." It was a hand tool with a wooden shaft like a small axe, except that on the opposite side to the blade protruded a blunt spike about six inches long. He proudly declared it to be grandfather's old pole-axe. The pole-axe was a deadly device used for the killing of animals before the invention of the humane killer with its captive bolt. "My grandfather, he could get hold of them bullocks and one swing with this," he waved it threateningly in the air, "and they were gone."

We went into the back of the sheds which had once been the slaughterhouse. Peter picked up a rusty and equally deadly looking cleaver. "I can remember that shining till it gleamed," he said, looking at the now corroded and pitted blade. "Know what it's for?" He flung it in the air. "It was for



halving pig carcasses. You hung 'em up and one swipe of this and they were split in two." I gave him a tanner and, pleased with my purchases, put the cleaver and the pole-axe into the boot of the car, breaking my regular rule of never

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

buying bits and pieces that I have no intention of using. Does it strike you as gruesome that I should find some satisfaction in owning artefacts like these? Do

you feel you should ring the police and have my garden dug over, just in case? Well, I am afraid I feel exactly the reverse. They are comforting and humane objects worthy of some honour. It is because we no longer face up to the

fact that animals must be killed to put meat on our plate that we have allowed farming to inflict the injustices on them which are now arousing public passion.

It was the small slaughterhouses, like the one from which I rescued the pole-axe and cleaver, that in a strange way were guarantees of animal welfare. The regular killings were a semi-public affair. All the villagers knew what went on, they sensed whether the place was clean or filthy. Equally importantly, they could judge the health of every animal that died. Cattle, pigs and sheep were probably driven down the main street — there would be no chance of any sickly or mistreated animal escaping the gaze of the villagers. It would not have been possible for a cow exhibiting the pathetic symptoms of mad-cow disease to pass unnoticed into the food chain.

But as we have learned to our cost, it can easily happen these days. The rearing and killing of

animals happens behind closed doors. It is only since we have been given a glimpse of the appalling transport trade — which is but one of the injustices heaped upon farm animals — that we have made any kind of fuss.

As I have said so many times in this column, we must turn back the clock to find any solution. Legislation will not ease our consciences, only an honest made connection between farm animals and food on our plate. The over-zealous Food Safety Act closed the small abattoirs. We must reopen them, so animals can be killed as close to the farm as possible in conditions as stress-free as we can make them. Let the butchers in towns and villages proudly show us where their meat is reared, by whom, and how carefully it is killed.

City-dwellers show a marked inclination for out-of-town shopping these days. Well, let them shop a little further out: let us have more country butchers selling meat we can honestly enjoy, rather than residing in a cottage in France and leaving the tools of their trade behind them.

Journey to the centre of the Earth

A wasteland in South Yorkshire is being transformed into a theme park dedicated to the well-being of our planet

A few miles outside Doncaster, the river Don flows brightly past alders and willows through a shallow valley. On a ridge to the south stands Conisbrough castle; to the north rises a bleak, red and black landscape of coal spoil — all the waste products of a century and more of mining, now soaked in acid and even arsenic.

But the wasteland is swarming with activity — bulldozers and cement-mixers roaring, and at weekends men, women and children digging and planting trees. For this is the site of a vision that is rapidly taking shape — an Earth Centre, which will be a model of land reclamation, and a home for high-tech demonstrations of the healthy use of our planet.

It all began in the late 1980s, when John Latta, the founder and chairman of the museums support organisation, National Heritage, began to think about creating a modern museum of the environment. He considered some London locations — Bankside, Battersea power station — then went to talk to Jonathan Smales, at that time the United Kingdom director of Greenpeace. Why, he thought, don't we have a great open-air centre that would be a demonstration in its own right of "sustainable development"?

That is the key phrase in all the current environmental thinking. It implies no hostility to development and

progress — on the contrary. It simply means drawing on the earth's resources without diminishing or damaging them — in the words of Jonathan Smales, who at the age of 35 is now masterminding the project, "leaving the earth in as good a shape as we find it". A not-for-profit body was set up as Museum of the Earth Ltd. They soon found the South Yorkshire site — 300 acres of deserted coal-mining land, leased to them by Doncaster Council at a low rent for 99 years. They brought in some sympathetic businessmen to help them, and raised support and money from many bodies ranging from the European Union and the Department of the Environment to the Dearne Valley Farmship, a joint body set up by the



Mr Smales (left) on site

three local authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. They are now well under way with the first phase of the scheme, which will cost £2 million.

By July of this year, when they plan to open the Earth Centre to the public, the wasteland should have been transformed. Visitors will be able to step straight from the redesigned Conisbrough railway station into an elegant green reception building by Feilden Clegg Design, then cross the river into a landscape of gardens, fishponds and farm surrounded by natural woods and wetland. Eventually there will be 80,000 trees on the site.

The first main purpose will be to show how the land can be cultivated and fish and animals can be reared both profitably and sensitively. The goats and cows and geese will be simply but comfortably housed, the carp breeding in reed-fringed, unpolluted ponds, the vegetables and herbs on sale as evidence of how cheap and delicious the products of organic farming can be.

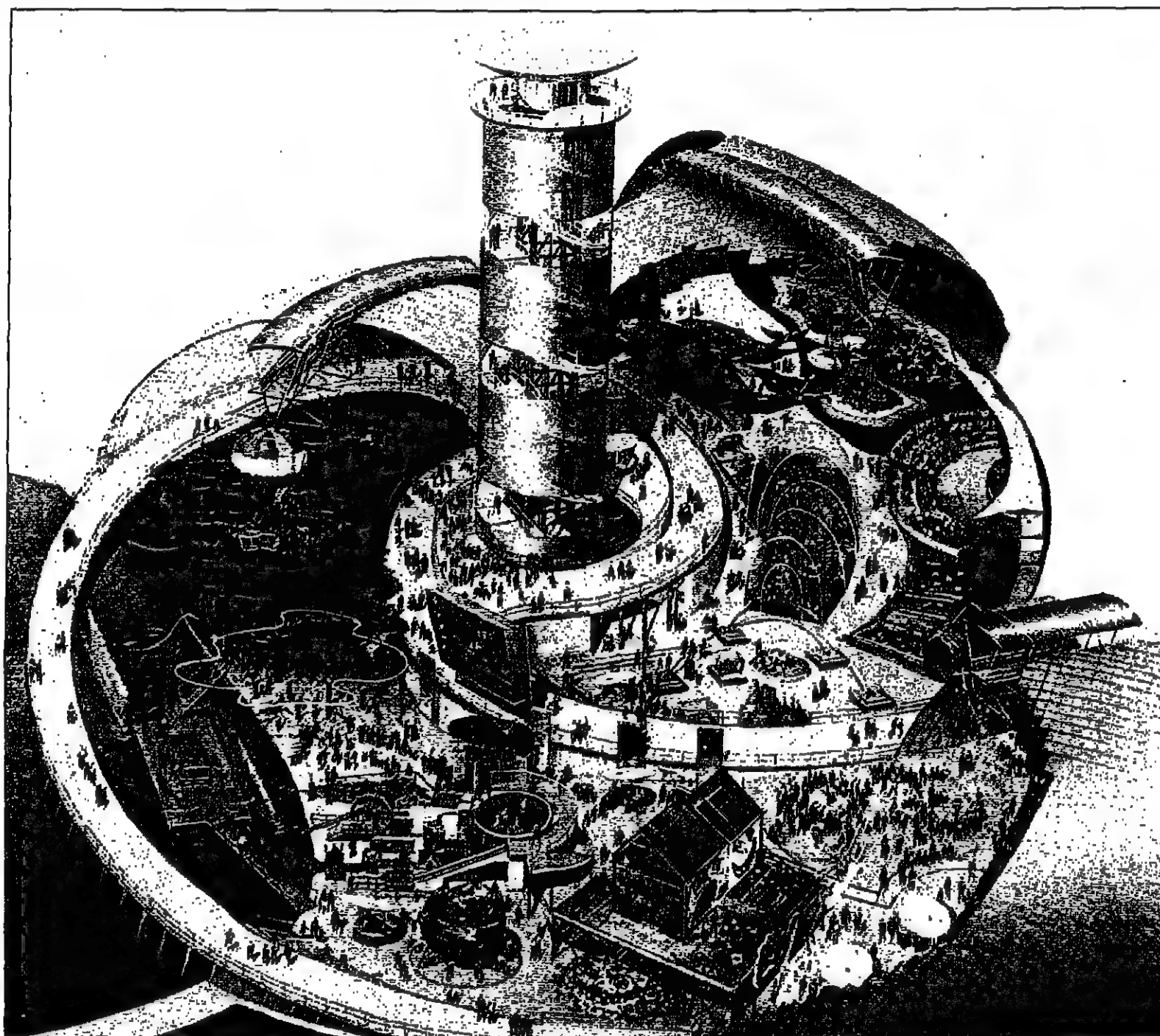
A special Swedish-designed windmill, or wind turbine, will be in operation. It will show that, to exploit wind energy, it is not necessary to have a "wind farm" with lines of windmills, but that a village or small town can produce a great deal of its energy needs with a single turbine of this kind.

In the middle of all this will rise the Global Village — an educational play and adventure area for children. They will be able to learn about animals and farming throughout the world, and even identify with the animals as they scramble over climbing frames that force them to adopt the movements of camels and monkeys.

At the heart of the Global Village, as a symbol of imaginative resourcefulness, will stand a great Kirghiz yurt, or nomads' shelter, made of hides on a collapsible framework.

Beyond July, the Earth Centre has plans for major developments going up to the millennium. They are bidding to be adopted as one of the choices for Millennium Funding. By 2000, if all the dreams are realised, there will be a striking exhibition centre called the Ark, enclosed in a skin of photovoltaic panels that can harvest the sun's energy.

There will also be a Sustainable Industry, Science and Communications Pavilion where, ranged round the ancient themes of earth, fire, air and water, the best current responses to the environmental challenge will be on show. There will be an Earthwatch



An artist's impression of how the new exhibition centre will look. The centre, called the Ark, will harvest the sun's energy

Gallery, a continuous audio-visual display of the latest threats to the natural world. There will be energy-saving eco-chalets for visitors, a conference centre where it is envisaged green issues will be debated, and a restaurant designed by the architect Will Alsop, while an ultra-light railway will join Conisbrough Castle by a viaduct to the Earth Centre.

At present, 40 people are working on Earth Centre, 30 of them volunteers. 20 of them (including Jonathan Smales himself) on low and erratic pay. Local people come in to help plant the trees. But once the Centre opens in July, they

are hoping for 100,000 paying visits a year which will cover 80 per cent of the running costs. It will have some of the characteristics of a theme park — but it will be a theme park with a difference.

By the millennium, they believe that 1,000 local people will be working for the Centre in one way or another — and that their influence will be radiating out in every sense to the ends of the earth.

DERWENT MAY

● The Earth Centre, Kilaer's Bridge, Doncaster Road, Donkey Main, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN12 4DY (01709 770566; fax: 01709 361727).

Feather Report

Lovers in the tree tops

ST VALENTINE'S Day is traditionally the day when birds choose their mates for the year, and it is true that if you go around the countryside in the early part of February you are very conscious of birds being about in pairs (Derwent May writes).

On one of the warm, dry days last week I was out in some Surrey woodland. The tree tops were full of noisy nuthatches. Some were making that breathy twitter, like a hammer glancing off a piece of metal, that you hear all the year round; others were giving their long, clear spring whistles. I quickly picked one out walking head downwards on a dead branch at the top of an oak. It was feeding, but it was also looking into holes.

Suddenly another came buzzing through the air and landed by it, and the two of them went up and down the dead wood together. They were obviously a pair thinking about where they might make their nest later on. They nest in large holes, plastering up most of the entrance with mud, and a female choosing her mate will need to be sure that he has suitable ones in

his territory. Their blue backs stood out very brightly against the pale, barkless wood.

After that it was all pairs. One jay started screaming in a tree, and another flew in and screamed with it. I did not think they were screaming at me, and I was soon proved right — a sparrow-hawk which they must have already spotted flapped overhead and glided away. I say "screamed", which is how that harsh cry of the jay is usually described, but I have found a more precise comparison. I recently heard a man blowing his nose in a very loud, determined way, and I thought "That sound seems familiar". Then I realised it was exactly like a jay's call.

The next pair were mistle thrushes, very symmetrically arranged. A large garden with two tall cypresses in it abutted on the wood, and the birds were sitting side by side, one on the top of each tree, warming their breasts in the mid-morning sun, and churr-



Twittering: the nuthatch

the next. It obviously did not want to go far — I imagine it had found some well-stocked anthills. So I circled round and advanced from the opposite direction. This time it flew back and landed on the grass again.

In the same low sunshine I had an unusually good view of its back, the colour of olive moss, the brilliant red top of its head, and its little black moustache. The fact that the moustache did not have a red centre meant that it was a female. Woodpeckers pair later in the year than many species, and this was obviously one who had not yet made up her mind.

Back in the wood, pairs of starlings were sitting together, with each male producing clicks and whirring and whistles from his wide-open beak, and waving his wings aggressively at other starlings which passed. A flock of jackdaws circled overhead with clacking cries; then they came tumbling down into the

branches where they too disposed themselves in intimate-looking pairs. As I left the wood, there was a screech even more startling than a jay's, and a pair of ring-tailed parakeets shot overhead, their long tails trailing.

St Valentine was doing his stuff. In fact, there is a value in this tendency of birds to form pairs a good couple of months before they mate and breed. In the winter, it is every bird for him or herself. But now the pairs have a kind of quiet, sexless honeymoon in which they can become familiar with each other. Paired birds are far more faithful to each other than was once supposed. But the bond that they forge in these early spring days does seem to contribute to keeping them together in the busy months of breeding ahead.

● What's about: Birders — now is the ideal time for listening to the song of the chaffinch. Twitlers — Foster's term in the Menai Strait. Gwynedd: American wigeon on River Conway. Gwynedd: Hume's yellow-browed warbler at Great Yarmouth Cemetery, Norfolk. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times. ● Robin Jacques is away.

THE TIMES

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TRAVEL

AMERICA: Wallow in pure luxury from the Napa Valley to San Francisco ...

California's vine romance

Deep furrows ploughing through the soil, curving where the land swells or dips, look like fine tracery from up here. We're in heaven over the Californian wine country, 800ft up, drifting above the morning mist in a hot-air balloon called Auberge du Soleil. It's named after the luxury, rustic hotel where, just half an hour ago, we were nestled under down comforters in our terracotta-tiled "chalets", each with its wooden shutters opening onto private decks, a log fire for frosty days, and a view of the Napa Valley's vineyards beyond the slopes of the sculpture-dotted olive groves.

In the New World, you can even tie the marital knot floating in mid-air, with a wicker gondola of guests and a crate of bubbly. The Mumm Winery is just around the corner from the Auberge. In fact, you're spoilt for choice in this region if méthode champenoise sparkling vineyards tickle your fancy.

It's 6am and, far below the balloon, the Napa Valley is already waking. Almost out of earshot, Monday morning traffic heading for San Francisco, glints along Highway 20. A tractor spraying clouds of chemicals surprises a jack rabbit. "A deer!" exclaims a fellow balloonist, smiling beatifically, if somewhat losing her sense of perspective. Sunshine and a cooling wind; a hushed dragon's-blast of propane; the creak of wicker basket and guy ropes. Existence this high up seems ineffably serene.

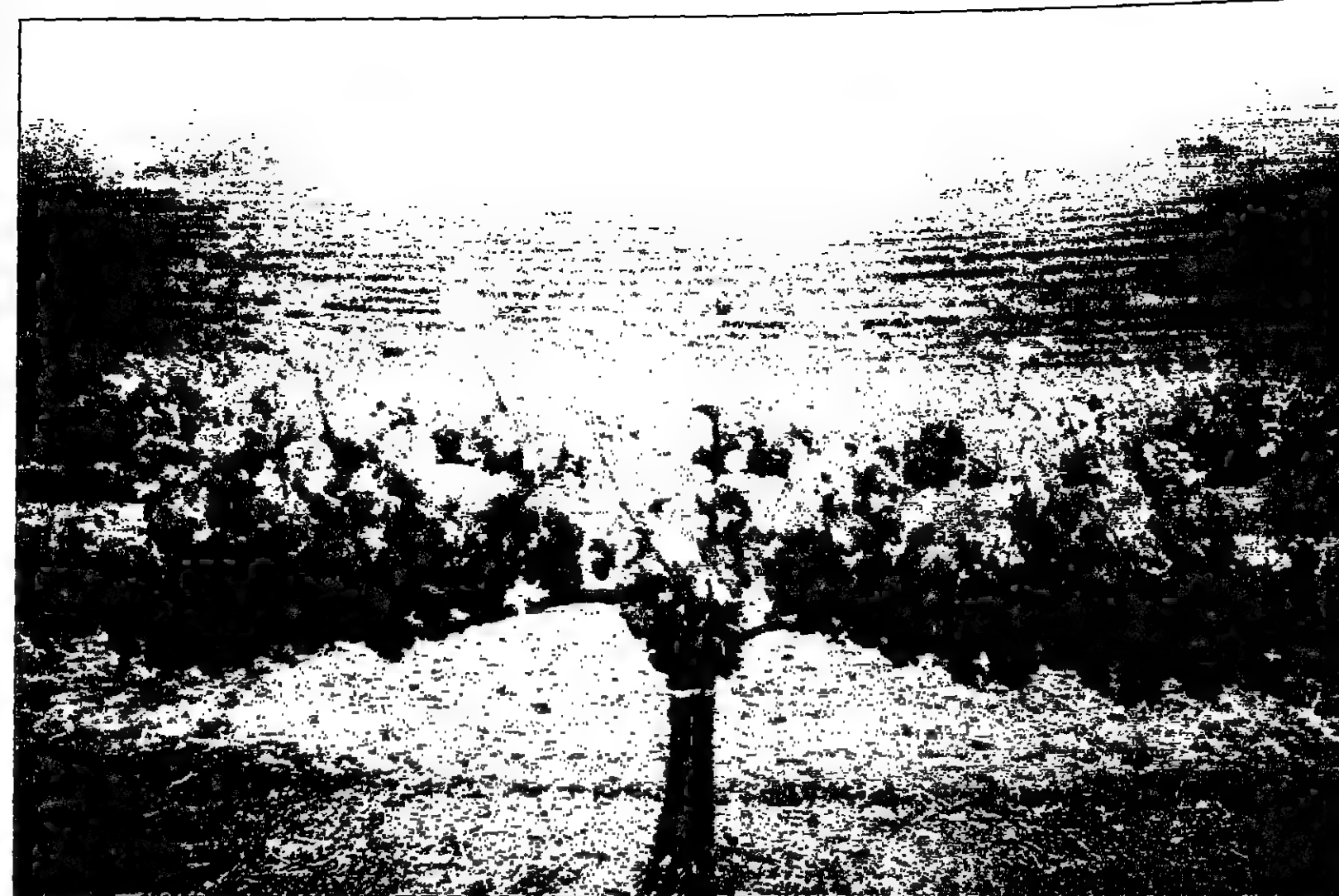
A few hours later, I'm down to earth and up to my ears in a sinking, steaming quagmire. I thought I'd dip into one of the local delicacies — a mud bath. Dr Wilkinson's salon, in the tourist spa town of Calistoga, proves to be the valley's answer to Dante's inferno. Have I really paid money to be sucked down, naked, into the Devil's hot compost?

Volcanic ash, peat, sulphurous mineral water, and whatever the previous bathers left behind, clearly aren't my cup of tea. Eyeing the big shovel against the concrete wall, I have a creeping feeling I might even be relaxing atop some erstwhile customer.

Unfortunately, hysterical laughter only encourages the attendants: they smear my face with blue cream, dump me into a tub of lukewarm water with an old hosepipe (excuse me, a whirlpool bath), squeeze me into the sauna, and finally leave me struggling, weakly, inside a blanket in what appears to be a small detention cell. Health and beauty: it's worth every cent.

More blissful, perhaps, is wine-tasting at the exclusive Hess Collection on Mount Veeder, which offers a heady combination of sipping Cabernet Sauvignon or Chardonnay while admiring a Francis Bacon or a Gilbert and George in Donald Hess's refined pick of modern art.

For the more energetic, there are golf courses and



The Napa Valley in California is renowned for its Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay wines, but less for another local delicacy — a mud bath



Fact file

□ Kate Bassett was a guest of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, 22 Sansome Street, San Francisco CA 94104-2792. (0101-415 885 0999). Deluxe rooms from \$275 (£180) a night. Also Auberge du Soleil, 180 Rutherford Hill Road, Rutherford, Napa Valley CA 94573 (0101-707 963 1211). Rooms from \$285 (£190) a night.

□ She flew courtesy of British Airways (0345 222111), which has two flights a day to San Francisco. Return fares from £568 Economy to £3,254 Club class.

□ Balloons Above The Valley (0101-707 253 2222) offers all-day flights, including lunch, from \$165 (£110) per person.



Trans-Am building (left)

of Nob Hill and the brothels and opium dens of the Barbary Coast. More recent trends have seen the influx of beatniks to North Beach and hippies to Haight Street, and the city is rightly known as the gay capital of the world.

Today, the Mandarin's safe, pampered haven seems, in spirit, miles away from the seedy strip-joints off Columbus Avenue. But North Beach, like Haight-Ashbury, is civilised. You don't have to be wildly bohemian to browse in City Lights, the famous bookstore that was the home of the Beat generation, nor be able to talk Dada to take time out in the cluttered Vesuvio bar next door. It is well worth visiting these places for a taste of a city almost European in its feel, where the people are surprisingly laid back.

Fisherman's Wharf is the prize tourist trap, packed with expensive seafood restaurants, tacky souvenir shops and lame museums. For a mild thrill, some hang onto the outside of a bell-clanging cable-car, roller-coastering the hills, or experience the Tactile Dome in the extraordinary hands-on Exploratorium Science Museum in the Marina district.

Equally, you could spend whole days being dazzled by designer goods in the city's prestigious stores, or stroll through the dozen distinct neighbourhoods, or even head for the forests, beaches and cliffs of Marin County.

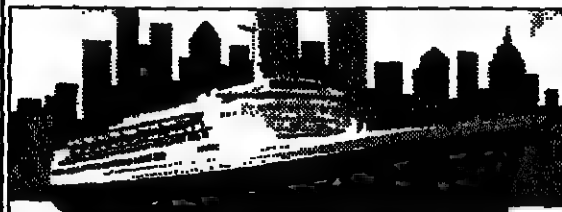
As Dylan Thomas ecstatically scribbled home: "Oh, San Francisco! It is and has everything."

KATE BASSETT

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TRAVEL

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... or follow in Mark Twain's footsteps on a leisurely steamboat cruise along the hypnotic Mississippi

Steaming down Old Man River

NEW York, Los Angeles, Miami and Orlando may be the traditional favourites for Britons heading to America, but a number of lesser-known states are starting to target the UK market too.

Virginia, where mountains bring a temperate summer climate, is a new destination for Britons, and for those looking for a touring holiday many standard hotels offer accommodation at around £40 per night.

North and South Carolina offer both mountains and miles of coastline. North Carolina boasts the Cherokee, the Great Smokey Mountains, ski resorts, state parks and the ultra-long Appalachian Trail marked footpath.

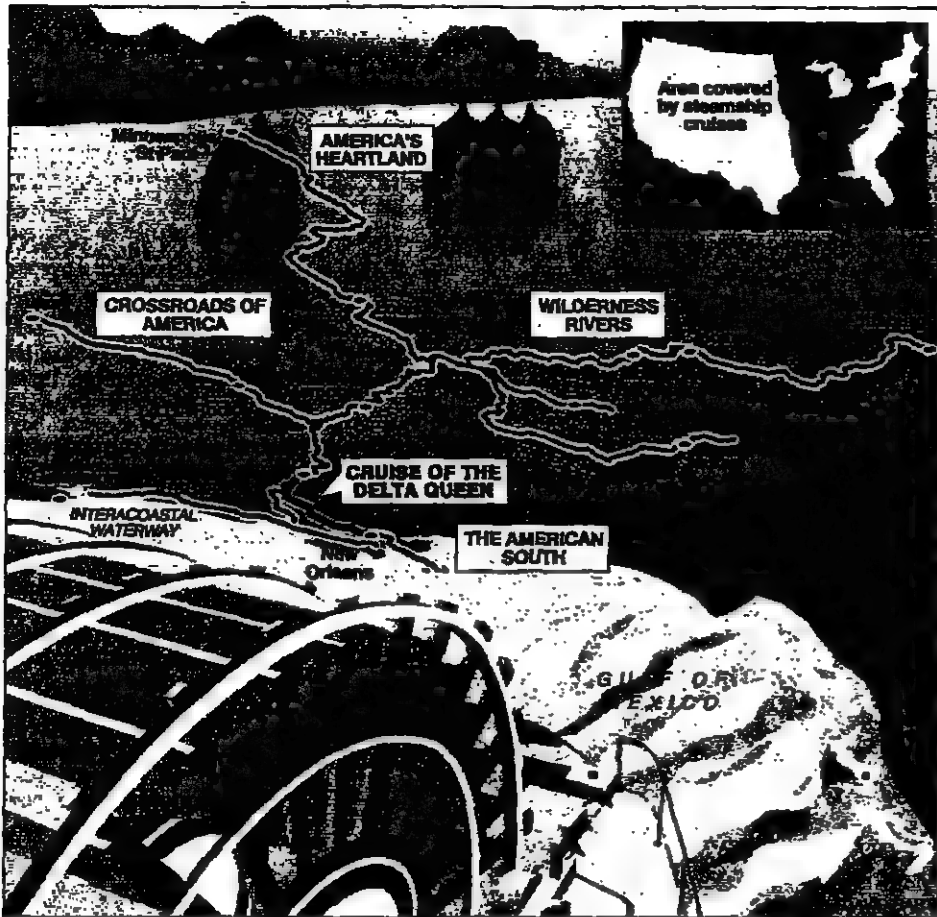
Those who have seen Orlando and Miami and want a change should try the beach resorts of Daytona Beach, and St Petersburg-Clearwater.

Daytona is on the Atlantic coast, and has a motor-racing stadium, theme parks and golf courses, while St Petersburg-Clearwater is on a peninsula on Florida's west coast, between the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay.

If skiing is more your style, Trailfinders (0171-937 5400) offers bespoke packages to the Colorado resorts of Vail, Keystone and Breckenridge, with prices from £700 for a week including flights.

River Island Expeditions (0181-910 4525) has put together cattle-driving holidays in Colorado for keen riders, including one seven-night package which requires participants to wear 1800s dress. Prices start from £1095 per person including flights, and meals are provided on some drives. These holidays are only available in the summer months.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



One day we'll be able to go 700 miles an hour," Mark Twain predicted more than a century ago. "then we'll want to go seven again."

The sage of the Mississippi has been proved right, to judge by the growing popularity for his favourite mode of travel, steamboating on Old Man River and beyond. For 11 months of the year, two splendid paddle-wheelers, the *Delta Queen* and the *Mississippi Queen*, cruise the vast river system that runs through the heart of America.

The steamboats ply their routes at a leisurely pace, offering passengers a chance to step back in time. The water lies flat, with no noticeable swell even on breezy days.

The river is hypnotic, even on long stretches of wilderness when each bank is an endless forest of cottonwood and willow trees. Its course, as Mark Twain noted, is more crooked than a snake. You are forever scanning the horizon to discover what is around the bend. It could be a small riverfront town, an antebellum planta-

tion mansion or a flight of blue herons skimming the water.

At times, the steamboat shaves the tangled shore — "running the willows" as it is known — but mostly the pilot searches for slack water where the current runs less strongly.

"If you meet a pilot who says he's never run aground, you've just met a liar," says John Davitt, formerly a pilot and now captain of the *Delta Queen*. Samuel Clemens started as a Mississippi pilot and took his pen name from the bowmen who swung lead weights on a line to gauge the river's depth. Their cry for two fathoms was "mark twain".

Since Mark Twain's day, steamboats have acquired marine radio, depth-sounders and searchlights, but it is still the pilot's memory that keeps the vessels out of trouble. To qualify, Captain Davitt had to complete a detailed drawing of every mile of the river from memory, 20 miles at a time, 1,700 miles in all.

He says that the Mississippi does not usually shift as dramatically as it did in Mark Twain's time. These days, US Army engineers corral the river within levees and embankments but, as last year's flooding proved, the river is

still capable of churning its own wilful progress.

The *Delta Queen* sets sail from New Orleans with the blast of a few notes from her calliope, the traditional steam organ on the aft deck. She is bound for Natchez, Mississippi, three days and 268 miles distant. A National Historic Landmark, she is an authentic sternwheeler, 68 years old, with a 44-ton paddle driven quietly and entirely by steam. From the outside, she looks like an oblong wedding cake. On the inside, she resembles a Victorian bed-and-breakfast with fancy firework and stained glass. Her sitting lounge amidships and the forward bar both gleam with polished brass and hardwoods. In her dining room, the curtains are velvet and the napsery immaculate. Rocking chairs line the decks. The only items missing from Mark Twain's day are the brass spittoons spaced six feet apart.

Accommodation ranges from the stateroom, once used by Princess Margaret, to more compact cabins, all with shower and lavatory but none with television or telephone. Indeed, the 20th century starts to recede as the *Delta Queen* churns away from her quay



The heyday of the steamboat may be past, but this unhurried form of travel is becoming popular once more

into the soupy water that river folk describe as too thick to drink and too thin to plough.

The 180 passengers and 80 crew settle into the chummy routine of a floating community. Veterans of ocean cruising quickly declare the food to be better than on the QE2. The essence of river fare is Cajun cooking with its spicy mix of peppers, okra and ground sausage root. All of these, plus chunks of crawfish, shrimp and catfish, go into a local bouillabaisse known as gumbo. Turtle soup is pure New Orleans with a rich

tomato base and very small pieces of turtle meat. Crawfish are known on the river as "mud bugs", which does not sound too appetising, but these mini-lobsters are delicious when served en croûte with cream sauce.

As the *Delta Queen* pushes serenely on, Nadine Louviere, an authority on river lore, explains how 19th Century steamboats contributed to the language. Passengers who paid extra to travel on boats with high, fluted funnels that kept the soot off their clothing were known as high-falutin'.

Similarly, anyone who adopted fancy fashions and snubbed old friends was derided as high hat.

The steamboats also brought music and entertainment to the river. The *Delta Queen* carries talented musicians who are faithful to the honky-tonk rhythms of Dixieland and the subtler tempo of rag-time. The sounds of the calliope — pronounced cal-aye-oh-pea — are equally genuine but less entrancing. Audible up to ten miles away, the calliope is an acquired taste, like bagpipes, and is

played only sparingly. After 40 hours on the river, the *Delta Queen* pulls into Natchez, now a quaint echo of its heyday as a cotton port. She moors alongside her bigger sister, the *Mississippi Queen*, which boasts the same elegant brass and ironwork, but is more of a floating Hilton, with a gym, cinema, beauty salon, sundeck, pool and a lift to serve its seven decks. Perhaps she is the fulfilment of Mark Twain's dream of a steamboat of unrivalled luxury.

IAN BRODIE

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Fact file: steamboat cruises

□ The author travelled as a guest of the *Delta Queen* Steamboat Co., which offers cruises ranging from three to 16 nights on the *Delta Queen*, *Mississippi Queen* and (from June) the patinated new *American Queen*. Fares range from \$163 (about £105) to \$646 (about £425) per night, per person, depending on cabin category. Rates are based on double occupancy and include all on-board meals and entertainment.

□ Boats can be boarded in New Orleans, Memphis, St Louis, St Paul, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Nashville, Chattanooga and Little Rock, all of

which can be reached by British Airways (0181-897 4000) with through service on USAir.

□ For more information about steamboat holiday packages, write to the *Delta Queen* Steamboat Co., Dept PY95, 30 Robin Street, Wharf, New Orleans, LA 70130-1990, USA, (0101 504 536 063).

□ Information and reservations are also available from the company's British sales agent: Fred Olsen Travel, White House Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 5LA, (01473 292202).

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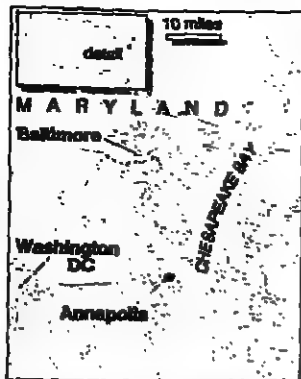
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AMERICA: Maryland is serene, charming, and home to heavenly crab patties, says Tunku Varadarajan

The day a crab caught me

I thought I'd gone mad. For days after my return from Maryland I could think of nothing else but crabs. I was short with my girlfriend, wayward at work, forgot appointments to meet for squash, neglected to shave. The crab which had cast this spell over me was the Maryland Blue, a scrumptious little creature which the locals love as dearly as they do their own mothers. The kitchens of this state are shrines to crabs. When they are hard-shelled you steam them — then tear them apart by hand and crab-mallet; when they are soft-shelled you fry them. And no true Marylander will forget to smother his plate with Old Bay Seasoning, so tangy that it almost makes the cooked crabs "jump off the platter."

The apogee, however, is the



crab cake: soft, moulded patties of spiced crab meat, bound together with egg, and fried gently in butter till golden.

Of course there is more to Maryland than crabs; and if snobs from Washington (big brother next door) say otherwise, tell them to jump into the

Chesapeake Bay. I can think of few other places in America which are as gentle and relaxing, as safe and reassuring, as Maryland. There is no metropolitan menace, no no-go areas, little urban decay. Baltimore, the state's largest city, is an example of civic regeneration on an almost old-fashioned scale. Where there was once depression and decline — it had gone the way of most port cities after the war — there is now a buzz of self-esteem and humour. The city has undergone the most remarkable transformation in the recent history of urban America. If only Hull were like this, or Portsmouth.

For the visitor, this civic pride is most apparent in the bustling harbour, where families promenade and polished buskers rub shoulders with

more erratic street magicians. There is food everywhere, and much munching on hot dogs, pretzels, doughnuts and other kinds of edible Americana.

The National Aquarium, a giant blue whale of a place, is at the harbour's edge, packed with children who are as wide-

eyed as they are voluble. It is an arresting place in which time passes at the speed of a cruising dolphin. I spent four hours there, having gone in expecting to get bored after just a few minutes of brightly coloured fish in tanks. A short hop away by water taxi is Fells

Point, the centre of Baltimore's ship-building industry in the last century, but now best-known for having more bars per square foot than anywhere else in America (and some of them offer prizes to anyone who can challenge that successfully).

No visit to Baltimore can be described as complete, however, without a pilgrimage to the Babe Ruth Museum. My guide — an old black man with crumpled face and accent — described this legendary baseball player as "one of the ten most important men that ever lived in America". Few in Baltimore, at least, would disagree with that.

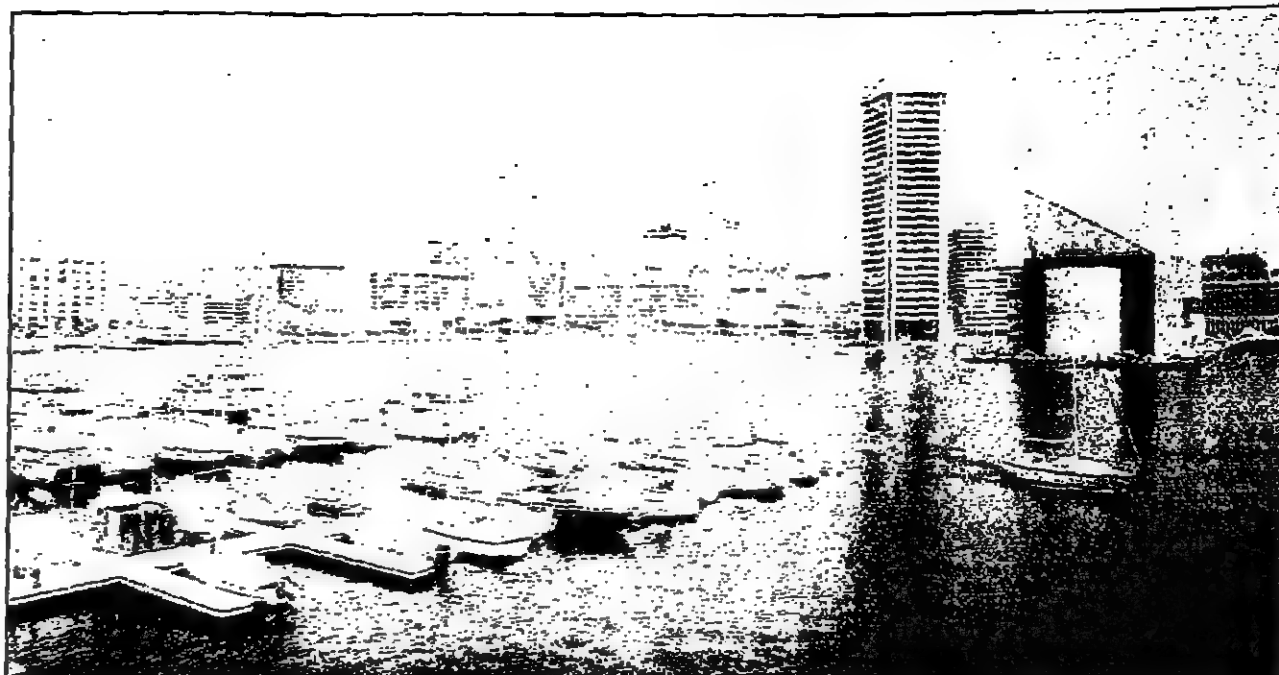
The librarian of the Peabody Library certainly did not, as he showed me to the desk which John Dos Passos had once used. So as not to disappoint him, I ran my fingers reverentially along its smooth edges, before returning my attention to the most handsome public room in the city.

If Baltimore is a city renewed, Annapolis, the state capital, is a town in a pretty time-warped of its own making. It boasts a rich concentration of 18th-century architecture and — I promise this — not a single ugly building anywhere. *National Geographic* rightly devoted a photo essay to its picture postcard charms a few years ago. The town is prosperous (a number of out-of-staters have second homes here, on the Chesapeake Bay), the harbour is shaded with

sailboats, and the bay's expanse is a sailor's dream. I went out one day on to choppy waters, in the safe hands of a captain pickled in brine and whisky. An hour later, buffeted a bit by the wind, we drank cold beer and chomped — inevitably — on crab sandwiches.

Since Annapolis is home to the US Naval Academy, it is home also to thousands of fresh-faced, tight-trousered courteous young cadets. The town loves them, and cherishes its place in naval history. In fact, it cherishes history of all types: an age gone by was brought to life for me by a buxom-bodied middle-aged guide, dressed and acting as a "good wife" from the 1780s. Bonnet on head, basket in hand, she drew not a glance from the locals as she led me from street to handsome street, describing affairs in German-accented English. She was, in fact, German, but so too were many of Maryland's early settlers.

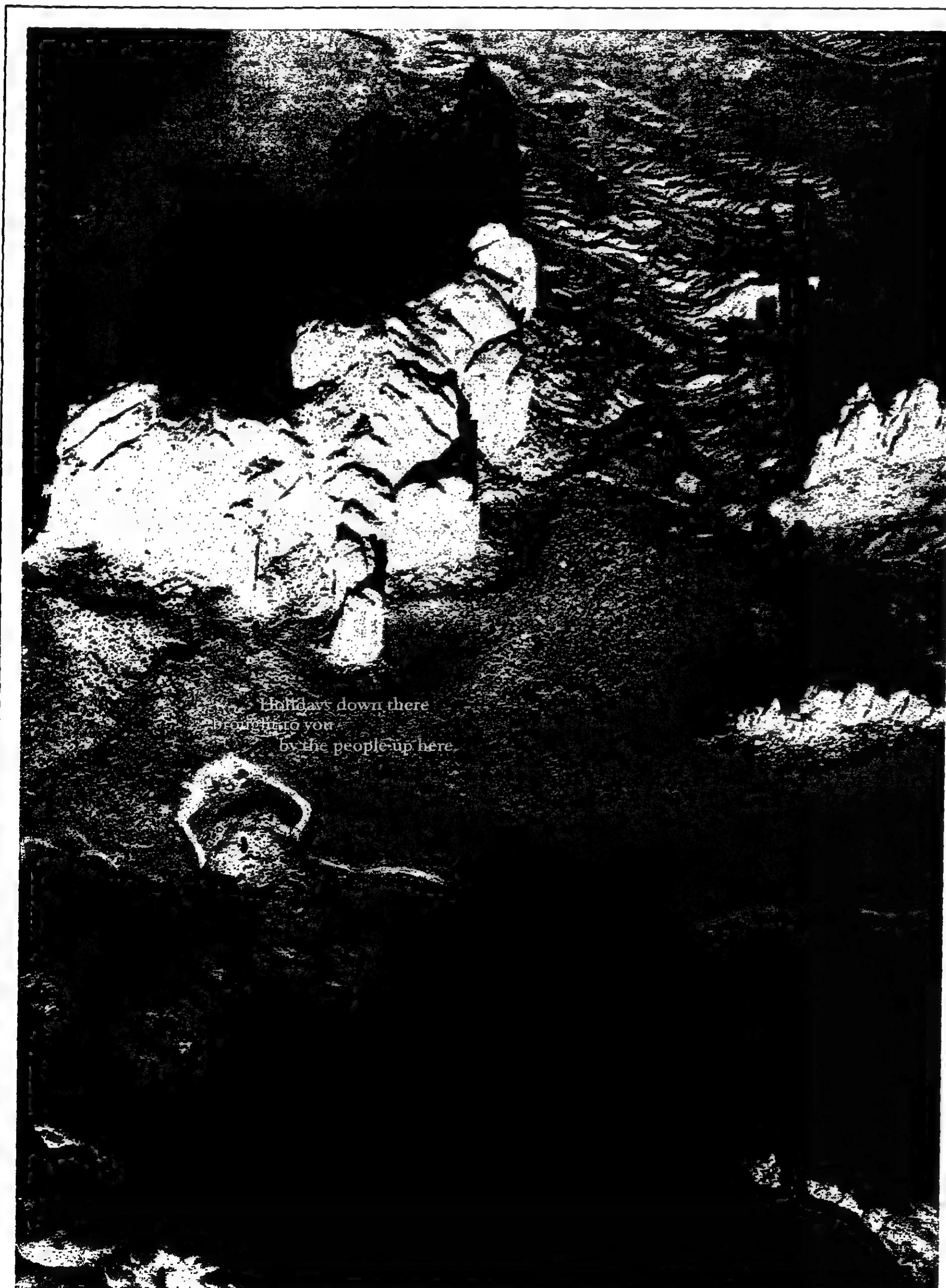
"We came here only a few years ago from Bavaria," she said as part of her pretend-role as living historian. "I miss the beer, of course, but the crabs here..."



How to get there

- The author was a guest of Maryland Tourism in the UK. Special Barm Main Street, Great Barmouth, Oxfordshire OX7 1Q7 (01295 750789) and British Airways.
- British Airways (081-8774000). Approx return Gatwick-Baltimore costs £278 (midweek travel, up to March 31).
- The Latham Hotel (010 1430 727 7101) in Baltimore costs £90-£120 a night room only; Loew's Annapolis Hotel (010 1410 285 7777) is £90-£105, room only but breakfast included with most expensive room.

Civic pride is much in evidence at Baltimore's regenerated harbour



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Hertz

NICE PEOPLE. BUT THEIR TABLE MANNERS SHUCKING!

LOOpen July 8, 1994, Hampton, Virginia.

"Enjoy your dinner folks," said the waitress, handing us two sizeable "shuckers" (That's hushers to you.) In the Capital Region good eating means learning the ropes and using your smooches.

Over here you don't pick at your sea food you demolish it. The harder the oyster shell the harder you shuck. And etiquette dictates that you must slurp when you eat it.

It's a far cry from Washington D.C.'s ultra chic Dinner Cruises. So tomorrow we're off to the lakes around Hungry Mother that are so full of bass you can catch them with your bare hands. I only wonder what local chef, Miss Ada, will give us to eat them with?

Yes, I want to get the full story. Please send my copy of the Capital Region USA Travel Guide 1995, P.O. Box 15, St. Louis, MO 63103. I'll send you \$10.00.

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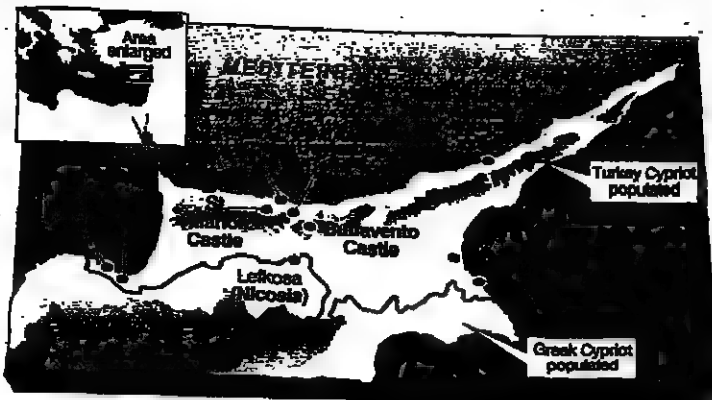
Virginia Washington, DC Maryland

TRAVEL

21

NORTHERN CYPRUS: Its colourful, shimmering beauty remains undiminished by political upheavals

The other side of Cleopatra's isle



Pale hillsides plunge down to the harbour at Girne (Kyrenia). The sandstone Venetian fortress there displays the hull of a ship which sank around 300BC

It's easy to conjure a troubled past standing on the dizzy parapets of St Hilarion castle, cut into a 2,200ft craggy mountain spine in northern Cyprus. The rampart view is awesome: pale hillsides shimmer away vertically through silvery olive groves to Girne's (Kyrenia) Venetian harbour fortress and a sea of deepest turquoise blue. The silence is broken only by live shot from the Turkish military practice ground below.

Originally St Hilarion — named after the eponymous hermit-saint — formed part of a defensive chain protecting this much fought-over island. Flares from Kantara and Buffavento castles were relayed via St Hilarion to inland Nicosia. The Byzantine structure was fortified and extended by the Lusignans then later dismantled by the Venetians who could not afford its upkeep. But the ruins are substantial and well worth the heady climb.

It's the sort of adventure castle straight from a Famous Five story. But I'm not sure what Enid Blyton's gang would have made of the military zone ("No photographs", "No stopping") through which you drive to reach the castle. Would the United Nations soldier (from Manchester) have waved them sternly on as he did us? And what would they have made of the macho military monuments erected by the Turks throughout the island's northern part after the 1974 invasion.

If you visit the medieval walled cities of Lefkosa (the Turkish name for Nicosia) and Gazimagusa (Paphos), you cannot be in any doubt that the country is a political question mark. In Gazimagusa I encountered a military parade singing gung-ho marching songs and peered across barbed wire

barricades at a ghost-town suburb evacuated by Greek Cypriots 20 years ago.

The divided city of Lefkosa has an uneasy atmosphere with its barbed-wire and oil-can United Nations "Green Line" and bored-looking soldiers queuing at automatic banks. Even country roads are punctuated by sentry boxes, although soldiers are generally confined to barracks and do not intrude into more touristy spots.

That said, it's possible to encounter none of these sights while enjoying the considerable plus points of northern Cyprus.

After all, if a country doesn't officially exist neither does it attract mass tourism. There are no high-rise hotels and the beaches are enticingly empty. There is no industry (oranges are the main export via Israel), little pollution and no major tourist developments.

Few visitors climb the Crusader castles or wander around Soli's Roman mosaics and restored amphitheatre. You can stroll through the ancient remains (impressive gymnasium and public baths) of the pre-Christian city of Salamis untroubled by coach-loads of rubbernecks, or relish, in splendid isolation, one of the world's bluest sea-views from the peak-top remnants of the Palace of Vouni built around 500BC.

Northern Cyprus is a mezz of cultures and traditions. In a single day you can see a Roman site, a Byzantine castle, a Venetian fortress, an Ottoman minaret, a Gothic cathedral and a British post-box.

Contrasts abound. In Gazimagusa the mosque calls the faithful to prayer from a former 14th-century French Gothic cathedral. In Lefkosa you can enjoy a massage in the Turkish baths (Buyuk Hamam) or visit St Sophia,

a Gothic cathedral converted to a mosque in 1572 through the addition of minarets and the removal of stone saints (non-human effigies of angels remain).

In Karaman, a delightful mountain village of white-washed villas and tumbling bougainvilleas, you're more likely to hear English than any other tongue. Three-pin 13-amp plugs are still used, pounds sterling are accepted in some places and clapped-out hire cars trundle along the left-hand sides of roads.

I stayed at the Mare Monte, seven miles west of Girne (Kyrenia). Built 20 years ago, the two-storey hotel and bungalows are tucked away in scented gardens along an unspoiled coastline backed by mountain ranges. My room was unpretentious yet spacious with a balcony and raki-stocked mini-bar.

A world away from international hotel clones, the Mare Monte oozes faded chic. Swimming from its private cove is a delight (the sea remains bath-warm between April and November). Other activities include tennis, volleyball, windsurfing and massage. Service in the bars and restaurant is prompt and



The 12th-century Gothic abbey at Beylerbeyi (Bellapais)

willing, the food is tasty, and there is live music every night. Eating on the vine-covered terrace is a magical experience. At dinner, moonlight silvers the waves below. At breakfast, sea and sky meet and melt in a gleaming turquoise ball.

A courtesy bus runs regularly to Girne whose horseshoe-shaped harbour is reminiscent of a small English seaside town in the 1950s. Boats bob prow-to-moorings next to cafe tables. Sit in the sunshine and sip a brandy sour or sample local fish at one of many restaur-

ants. Nothing — particularly waiter service — moves fast here. Girne's massive sandstone fortress is worth exploring, if only to see the lovingly restored hull of a ship that sank around 300BC, and is now displayed with part of its original cargo of terracotta wine jars and almonds.

A short drive into the hills behind Girne leads to sleepy Beylerbeyi (Bellapais), famous for its 12th-century Gothic abbey and Lawrence Durrell's affectionate memoir, *Bitter Lemons*. His Tree of Idleness Bar is now a restaurant, one of three in the village, and idling over a mezza or Turkish coffee does come pretty naturally here.

Although cypress trees grow within its ruins, the abbey appears curiously English until the view from its sheer escarpment catches you unawares: orange groves and olive trees, snaking sandy beaches and, beyond these, the luminous sea.

No wonder Anthony gave the island to Cleopatra. Despite its political upheavals, the beauty of northern Cyprus still conquers the hearts of those who visit.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

How to get there

□ The author was a guest of Imperial Tourism, 79 Lewisham High Street, London SE13 3JX (081-318 9000).

□ Imperial Tourism offers a seven-night holiday at the Mare Monte hotel, including flights from Heathrow to Erzin via Izmir, transfers and half-board accommodation for £328 per person, up to March 24, rising to £450 per person from August 31 to October 15. A two-week holiday during the same periods costs £464 or £583 respectively.

□ Imperial Tourism also offers self-catering accommodation in private villas and apartments. A seven-night holiday at Bird's Nest Cottage, a two-person villa near Girne, including flights, transfers and accommodation costs £267 per person up to March 24, and £375 from July 16 to August 31. A two-week holiday during the same periods costs £341 or £474 respectively.

□ Flights from Heathrow stop for an hour in Izmir (passage goes direct). Ask for a removable page if you do not wish to have your passport stamped by the

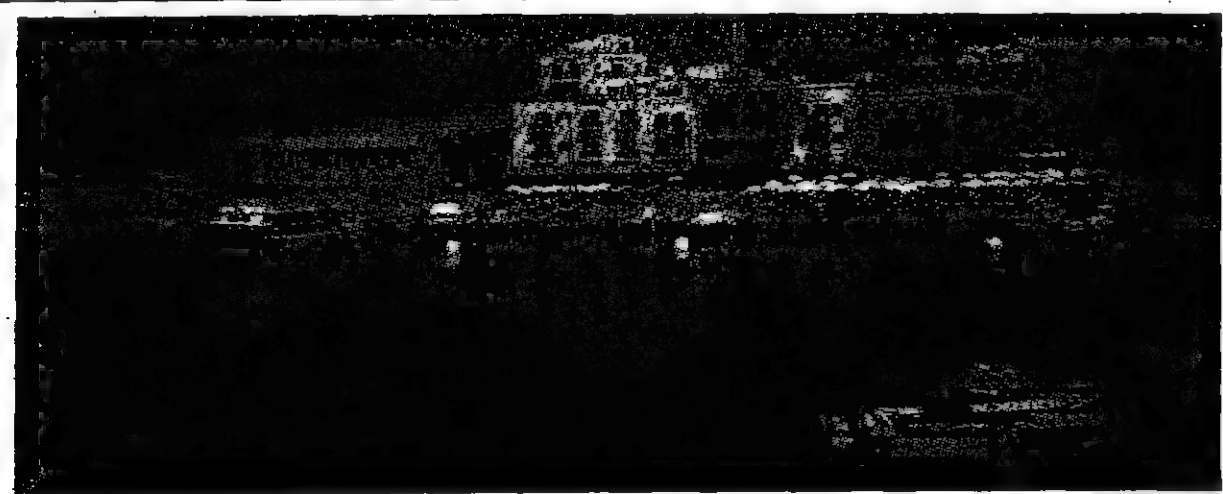
northern Cyprus authorities (advisable if you travel regularly to Greece).

□ Car hire: Budget Rent-a-Car, 37 Ebor Avenue, Serran Station, Girne has cars, mopeds, bicycles and Suzuki jeeps for hire.

□ Food: eating out is cheap in northern Cyprus — about £5 per head including wine for mezza, main course and Turkish coffee. The mezz I most enjoyed was on Sah Aile Gachous's barbecue-covered terrace in Guzelyurt (Mourmphon). The owner spoke good English and served a memorable selection of food, including mezza, Mefitko (lamb kebabs), sheftalia (stuffed sausage) and souvlakia (chicken and lamb kebabs).

Other recommended places include Camlin Balk, Girne (special fish mezza, calamari, sheftalia) and the Tree of Idleness, Beylerbeyi (kebabs, sheftalia, souvlakia). Outdoor terrace overlooking abbey and indoor dining area.

□ Information: Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, 28 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5BN (071-439 4577).



With hand on heart, there are not many areas which we can truly describe as untouched. However, North Cyprus without doubt fits this description. Although there has been a little development of hotels over the past few years, the whole area still has that wonderful quality of peace and tranquillity that could be found on most Mediterranean islands 30 or 40 years ago.

Spring and autumn are the ideal seasons for a visit. Warm enough to swim, yet comfortable for exploration. Depending on the size of the party there will be either a Guest Speaker and Tour Manager or one leader who will combine both duties.

KYRENIA AND BEYOND

AN 8 DAY VISIT TO THE CASTLES, ABBEYS AND ANCIENT SITES OF NORTH CYPRUS

THE ITINERARY

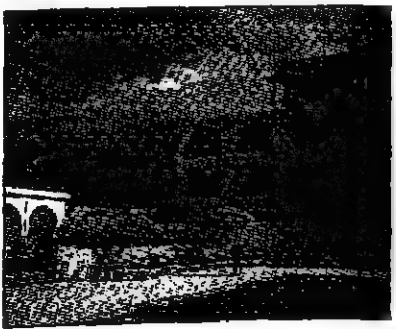
DAY 1 Fly London (Heathrow) to Erzin and drive to Onar Village just outside Kyrenia. Stay for 7 nights.

DAY 2 Drive to Girne (Kyrenia), explore the town on foot visiting the Castle with its unique Shipwreck Museum, the Anglican Church, the Folk Museum and Iron Museum. Lunch at a harbour-side bistro. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner at Onar Village.

DAY 3 Drive to 11th century St Hilarion Castle. The view of Kyrenia and the coastal plain is stunning from here. Continue to Lefkosa (Nicosia), explore the city visiting the Girne Gate, Venetian Column, the Buyuk Khan (16th century inn), the Selimye Mosque (formerly St Sophia Cathedral) and if time permits the Mervet Tekke Ethnographical Museum. A late lunch at Cyprus Kitchens in Gosseli just outside Nicosia. Return to Onar Village.

DAY 4 Drive East to St Barnabas Monastery which contains a collection of icons. In the cloisters admire an outstanding collection of unbroken pottery and glass from 3000BC to 500AD. Then visit the most important ancient site of Salamis, once capital of Cyprus. Lunch at Mr Bedi's restaurant above the sandy beach. Then drive to the old quarter of Gazimagusa (Paphos) visiting Othello Tower, Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque (formerly St Nicholas Cathedral) and the ruins of Venetian Palazzo. After an ice cream or cold beer at Petek's coffee house return to Onar Village.

DAY 5 Drive West to Guzelyurt (Mourmphon) surrounded by orange groves and market



gardens. Visit the Museum and Monastery of St Mamas. Then drive to the western extreme of North Cyprus to the 5th century BC palace of Vouni. There are breathtaking views of the sea and Troodos mountains. Descend to the ruins of Soli, a Hellenistic and Roman city, famous for its 17 tier stone seated theatre and mosaic floor in the 5th century Basilica. Lunch beside the rocky sea shore at Mardis's Restaurant. Return to Onar Village.

DAY 6 Drive to Kantara Castle, mentioned at the time of Richard Coeur de Lion's short stay in Cyprus on the way to the Crusades in 1191. A fairy tale castle with majestic views of both sides of the Karpas peninsula. Descend the mountain to the fishing village of Bogaz for lunch. Return to Kyrenia passing the Royal Tombs and ruins of ancient Enkomi.

DAY 7 Visit nearby Bellapais Abbey in the village where Lawrence Durrell wrote 'Bitter Lemons'. It is a magnificent 13th century ruin

in a perfect setting. Lunch at Bellapais at the Tree of Idleness or in Kyrenia. Afternoon free for relaxing or shopping. Return to Onar Village. Farewell dinner.

DAY 8 Fly Erzin to London (Heathrow) arriving in the afternoon.

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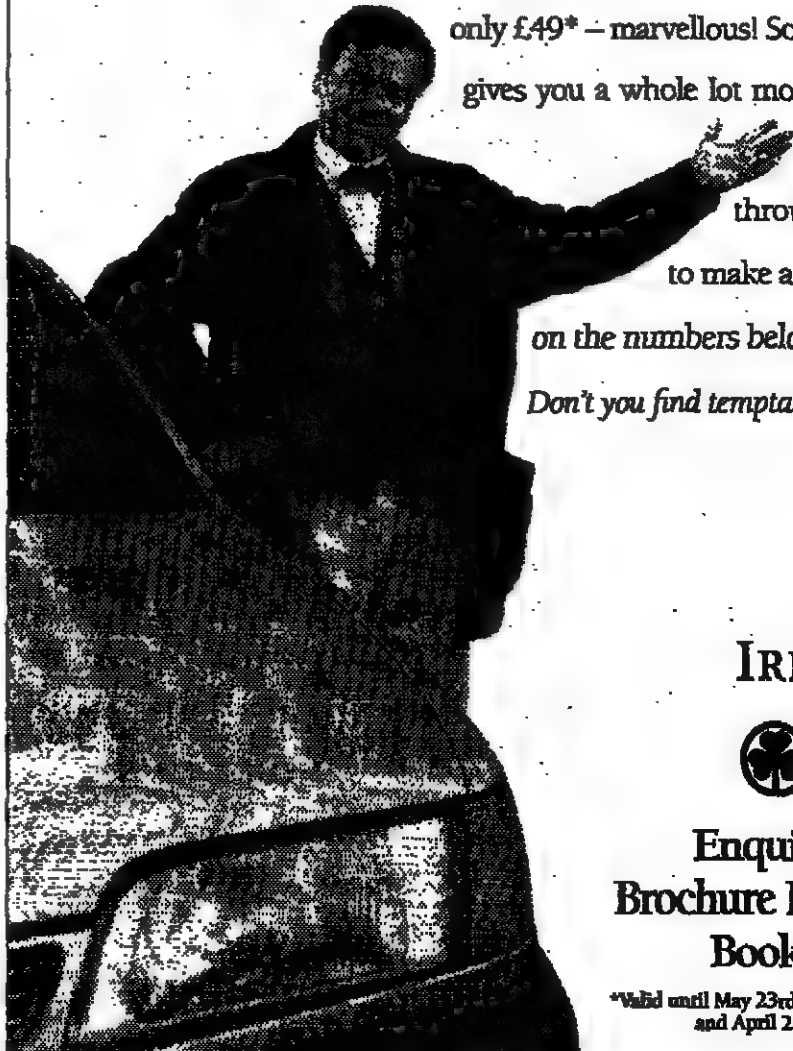
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WEEKEND SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

22

TRAVEL

WINTER BREAKS: Five days in the life of a would-be snowboarder; plus a little-known American resort

DAY ONE

The neon headline of the French snowboarding magazine, *Surf Neige*, at the newsagents in Cauterets arouses an irresistible urge: "Initiation - devenez une bête en 5 jours!" ("Become a beast in five days!") I am already anticipating some carving and slashing on the best slopes in the French Pyrenees. George, my sceptical Australian brother-in-law, puts one hand over the "une": "Become a fool in five days!" "It won't take you that long though," he says.

At the age of 16, he has already retired from snowboarding: "I can't afford the chiropractor and physio bills," he says. But my mind is made up - I want to be an unshaven, baggy-trousered, ripping Dionysian boarder, too. The locals are more sympathetic. The girl in the No Limits snowboard shop, a few doors down from the Hotel de Paris, assures me: "It's easy. You'll love it."

Surely my surfing experience will give me an edge when it comes to learning to snowboard - *le surf* as the French call it, surfing on snow. On the other hand, I also bear in mind the tip given to me by an American I ran into in New Zealand: "Lots of padding." Accordingly, before setting out for the cable car, I stuff a cushion down my salopettes and shove on a pair of Risport knee-guards, originally designed to enable rollerbladers to slide down the street on their knees. With armour ballooning out from front and rear, I have no fear of falling. It is standing up again that proves to be the problem.

As George goes whizzing by, he complains that my cursing is loud enough to set off an avalanche. But I make my biggest mistake of the day on the way down again in the cable car. When Sophie, George's 13-year-old sister, ridicules my efforts on the board, I bet her I will be shooting past her and her miserable skis by the end of the week. "How much?" she asks, in her over-literal way. I haggle her down from \$100 (£65) to Fr100 (£12) since she insists that "the end of the week" is Saturday - a mere three days away.

DAY TWO

My learning curve goes through a major dip as I head off on my own for the first time and encounter one of the more formidable difficulties faced by the would-be snowboarder: how the hell to get the damn thing on when there is no one to help. If you can't touch your toes, forget it. The second major difficulty is: how to get it off again. There are no automatic release bindings. Once on, you're locked into it, like a



"The snowboard is the ultimate powder vehicle. With only one edge to worry about there is no danger of diverging skis. However, there is no such thing as a straight line either"

Fact file

- Travel: Stansted to Lourdes, via Paris. Air UK (0345 666777) £180 return. Taxi to Cauterets costs around Fr300 (£37).
- Accommodation: comfortable two-star Hotel de Paris, Place du Marchal Foch, 65110 Cauterets. (010 33 6292 5385). Fr280-310 (£35-£40) per double room per night (high season); Fr220-240 (£27-£30) low season.
- Hiring equipment: No Limits, 8 rue de Verdun (010 33 6292 6448).

ball and chain shackled around your ankles.

So I turn to the experts. My first lesson at the Ecole Française is from Eric, who has completely gone over to snowboarding and only skis for business purposes. "Put all

your weight on the front foot," he preaches. "Swing your shoulders more." Great! Now I can do the "frontside" turn (which is, in effect, a right turn); but I can only pull off a "backside" (i.e. left) on my backside. As long as I can figure out a way of turning right all the way down the mountain, I am odds-on for the great board vs skis showdown. Eric suggests that, Cauterets being the elegant old spa town that it is, I should ease the pain with a visit to one of the thermal baths.

DAY THREE

My second lesson comes from Gerard, renowned as the main man on snowboarding. My troubles are over. "You need to put more weight on the back foot," he advises. "Don't swing your shoulders so much." Great! Now at last I have conquered the backside turn. But oh-oh: my frontside

has gone out of the window. Now I'll have to turn left all the way down. I try to weasel out of the race and offer Sophie the Fr100 straight out. She refuses: "You have to suffer the humiliation, too."

DAY FOUR

The day of the race. I turn up early to inspect the course and conceive a secret strategy for victory. To hell with turns - I'll just head straight down.

We are about two seconds out of the gate when I realise, with horror, that there is no such thing as a straight line on a snowboard: you're always on one edge, at an angle to the rest of the universe, and

therefore almost certain to collide with some part of it. The route is complete when I make mincemeat of a five-year-old at the bottom. I make my biggest mistake of the whole week when Sophie

and George are stuffing snow down my salopettes and I blurt out: "OK - double or quits! Same time, same place tomorrow."

DAY FIVE

The day of truth - am I a beast or a fool? After a night-long blizzard, there are tons of powder everywhere and even the piste is off-piste. The snowboard is the ultimate powder vehicle: with only one edge to worry about there is no danger of diverging skis. As George helps to excavate me from the frozen depths of a ten-foot drift, he comments that the only beast I come close to is a Palaeolithic hairy mammoth. I miss my date for the second race and Sophie, ruthless as only a 13-year-old can be, bills me for Fr200 (£25). George says: "Why don't you go back to skiing?" My body is almost intact, but I don't think my insurance - even with the double winter sports premium - covers a shattered ego.

Just as I am thinking of jacking it all in, I am saved and redeemed by a genuine guru - Vincent from the Pizzeria Giovanni in town, born and bred in Cauterets, who turns out to be not just a dab-hand with pasta and pizzas but an extreme skier and ace surfer on both sea and snow to boot. He leads me up to the highest point and teaches me two essential principles:

1. Bend your legs and tuck your back leg in behind your front.

2. Keep your right arm out in front, don't trail it behind you like an anchor.

After that, well, I won't say it is all downhill, but when I get to the bottom and join up with my four-year-old son, who has just emerged, bemuddled for excellence, from ski school, he is full of praise: "That's it, Daddy! Now you're getting the hang of snowboarding."

ANDY MARTIN

Board Stupid: Vision, page 3

Even the snowfall is mammoth

It was November 25, the day after Thanksgiving, and the folks who run Mammoth Mountain ski area had a welcome problem: too much snow.

A wild Pacific storm had rolled in from the Aleutians and sat stubbornly on the lonely eastern flank of the Sierra Nevada, where the smell of bad eggs still bubbles from volcanic fumaroles, and ski bums say things like "Awesome, dude," and "Oh man, did you dig that air?"

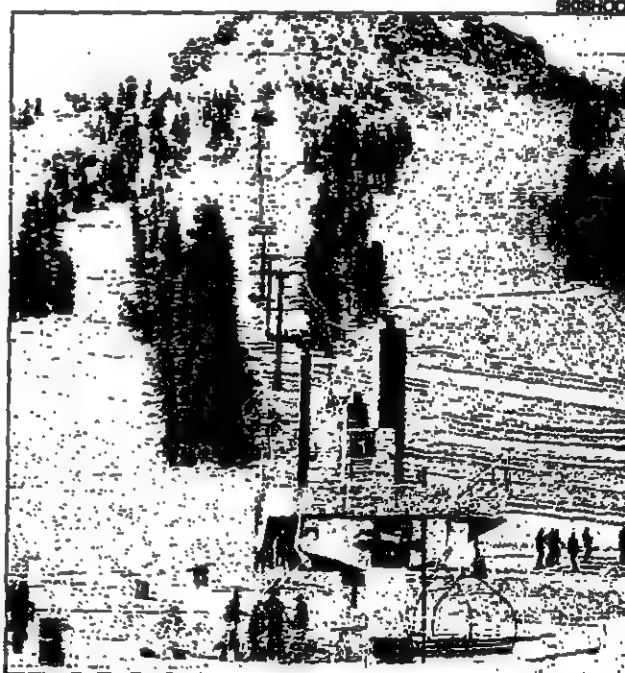
Having opened for business on October 8, ten weeks before the first snows reach the Alps, Mammoth is on course for a record nine-month winter season: skiers should still be on the slopes on July 4.

Two hours' drive from Death Valley, this may seem odd. One person who is not surprised, however, is Dave McCoy, the 79-year-old hydrologist who set up a primitive drag lift in the

late 1940s after years spent roaming the Sierras taking snow depth readings for the local water board.

The 11,000ft mountain he later named Mammoth - a marketing ploy based on its size - consistently scored the highest readings. The result, 45 years on, is one of America's biggest and, outside California, least-known ski resorts.

Not everything about it is ideal for Britons. It has been said that the imaginatively named Warming Hut 2, at the foot of the choicest intermediate slopes, has the ambience of an oil-rig canteen. And the main village, 15 minutes down the mountain by free shuttle bus, is a ten-hour flight from London, followed by up to six hours in a hire car or 65 hair-raising minutes in a 19-seat turbo prop from LA's international airport to Mammoth's miniature one.



Mammoth Mountain: the name reflects the place

sking and the arrestingly unalpine setting banishes jetlag. To the north, beyond pine-clad mountains of lava, are the granite peaks of the Yosemite National Park. To the east lie the deserts of Nevada, and un-

der your boards are 3,500 acres of spectacular skiable terrain (Americans seem more wowed by areas than miles of runs) - enough to keep good skiers busy for at least a week. The higher you go, the steeper

Fact file

- The author was a guest of the Mammoth Mountain Inn (001 619 934 2281) and of TW Express (0171 439 0077), which flies twice a day from Los Angeles to Mammoth. A night at the Inn costs from \$105 (£67) B&B for two. The Jagerhof Lodge (001 619 934 6162) charges from \$69 (£44) B&B for two.
- Crystal Holidays (0181 241 4003) and Virgin Holidays (0293 67181) offer seven-night stays including flights. Crystal from £499 per person (four people, self catering). Virgin from £499 per person (B&B at the Jagerhof).
- Mammoth Lakes Visitors' Bureau (001 619 934 2712).

it gets. Down by the Warming Hut you "cruise" on "co-duroy" (wide and cushy groomed runs), pinching yourself at the surreal friendliness of the lift attendants. But up on California's jagged backbone, 20 minutes by lifts for which queues are virtually unknown, the runs have names like Avalanche Chute and Hangman's Hollow and tend to start with leaps into space. Pack a hip flask and insurance.

GILES WHITTILL

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Thomas Cook

Answers from page 27

SNAREL
(b) To steal, appropriate, to grab, slang and dialect, now chiefly Australian, perhaps a variant of *snaffle* or *snaffle*. "They're booming the notion of a new township and snaffling all the land within a mile of it."

WORD-WATCH

UROBOROS
(a) The symbol, usually in the form of a circle, of a snake (or dragon) eating its tail. From the Greek for snake tail - *uroboros*, the snake with his tail in his mouth, is the prototype

of the vicious circle. The Endless Snake depicts an ouroboros who has become one with himself. It has fallen into the mathematical sign for infinity.

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TRAVEL

23

CORNWALL: Jack Crossley visits an hotel geared to visitors who pack their waterproofs and hiking boots



The seascape views from Fowey Hall must be among the best in the world

An hotel made for walkers

No en-suite rooms. No TVs, radios or telephones. No mini-bars or room service. No smoking in the dining room or bedrooms. Dinner served at 7pm — prompt. Rice pudding every evening. Pichard and tomato sandwiches on the packed lunch menu. Bedtime tea at 10pm.

Not your idea of an ideal break? Yet it all spells heaven for the fans of Fowey Hall, a magnificent Cornish mansion commanding seascape views among the best in the world.

Mazy West country hotels would like to command the same occupancy rate enjoyed by the Hall (100 per cent during parts of last summer).

It is an elegant pile indulgently built by a former Lord

Mayor of London, Charles Hanson, in the 1890s. It stands in four and a half acres overlooking quintessential Cornish scenery: the Fowey estuary — busy with fishing boats, quaint ferries, smart yachts, and incongruously large china-clay cargo ships.

Salmon, trout and sea bass nose their way in from the sea. Daphne du Maurier lived on the banks of the river here. The rocks which inspired her to write the story which in turn inspired Hitchcock to make *The Birds* still nest raucously in the grounds of the Hall.

Seagulls abandon the cliffs for the greater comfort of being non-paying guests, and compete noisily with the rooks. They are forgiven for this by those locals who still enjoy gull-egg omelettes.

Phil Beaver manages the

Hall for the Countrywide guest house group, and says: "We cater for walkers, bird watchers, country lovers. Although the hall itself was built to the highest luxury standards, our guests are not seeking four-star hotel treatment. There is a television set in the library, but it goes for days without being switched on."

"It was a policy decision not to have en-suite rooms. Other houses in the group have added them — and lost customers to us. The guests like greeting each other in the corridors on the way to the bathroom, chatting about yesterday's walks, discussing today's programme. There's no alcohol on sale as yet, but people can bring in their own."

I dropped in at 7.05pm on one of the hottest days of the

year and found dinner already being attacked. There was minestrone soup that was almost a casserole. Prawn cocktail was the other starter, but Fowey Hall's walkers — hardly a young person among them — fell upon the minestrone.

Huge Barnsley chops were the next course served with parsnips, potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower and carrots. A salad and a vegetarian meal were the other offerings. Fowey Hall's walkers went for the chops.

There were two sweets, plus fruit and cheese. Home-made sponge with custard and rice pudding. Not or rice pudding because rice pudding is served every day as a second option. "It's tradition," Mr Beaver says. "I don't know how it started, but

The guests like greeting each other in the corridors on the way to the bathroom, chatting about yesterday's walks

there would be a riot now if it wasn't there."

Breakfast is served at 8.15am and that does not mean breakfast starts at 8.15. It is there and all ready at 8.15, with sturdy people in sensible boots milling around waiting outside the breakfast room.

At precisely 8.15 one of the guests picks up a rubber mallet and strikes the breakfast gong. People up to the age of 80, facing a full day's cliff

walking, plough into porridge, eggs, bacon, tomato, sausages, black pudding.

"All very English," Mr Beaver says, proudly.

Before breakfast the guests had made their packed lunch choices from a list on the wall: meat sandwich; veg spread sandwich; pilchard and tomato sandwich; tomato sandwich; Blue Ribband cheese sandwich; sausage roll; cheese and onion crisps; biscuits.

yoghurt; chicken nuggets; cake; apple. "Please tick six items — except Saturdays and Sundays when it is five items as we provide afternoon tea. Please note all our sandwiches are made from brown bread."

Although Douglas Hurd once said that his vigilant Government would not have the European Union poking its nose into the "nooks and crannies" of the English way of life there is a sad tale to report.

Here, in the independently spirited county of Cornwall, Brussels has moved in to crush part of a way of life which none of those talking part recognise as being the least bit eccentric.

These doughy souls remember the old bedtime tea ceremony. They would be gathered in the library — with

the television firmly switched off. At an unappointed hour (but everybody knew when that hour was) those whose turn it was would go into the kitchen to make tea. There was no appointed list to say whose turn it was, but everybody knew whose turn it was. And whose turn it was to wash up afterwards.

All gone now, this ceremony. Brussels will not have enthusiasts enjoying themselves in the kitchen without food hygiene qualifications.

What happens now is that a Fowey Hall host or hostess has to be on duty to serve the bedtime tea.

The fun has been Brusselsed out of the tea ceremony, but no Eurocrat has yet found a way of preventing happy wanderers greeting each other on the way to morning ablutions.

Fact file

- Fowey Hall, Houston Drive, Fowey, Cornwall PL23 1ET.
- Getting there: By car — three miles after Lostwithiel join the B3269 to Fowey. From St Austell take the A390, then A3082 through Par to Fowey.
- Nearest railway station — Par, three miles away.
- Taxis — Contact Mr C. A. Bascley (01726 833389).
- Accommodation: One week full board accommodation costs £209-£239 per person, depending on the time of year.
- Walking tours, £5 per day. Themed walks and special interest holidays available.
- Reservations for Fowey Hall holidays through Countrywide Holidays, Birch Heya, Cromwell Range, Manchester, M14 6HU (0161 224 2855). For short-notice bookings contact Fowey Hall direct: 01726 833104.

A walker planning his route outside Fowey Hall. The hotel has kept the individuality that endears it to guests

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earns a
rave review
from Lord
Montagu
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All eyes on
Tyrrell's
search for
winning
formula
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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

Jonathan Prynn on how a convicted drink-driver can win back that lost licence

The fast lane back from the ban



Moment of truth: a roadside breath test can lead to a conviction that costs dearly. A government self-help scheme that gets banned drink-drivers back on the road earlier also helps to cut the bills

Hundreds of convicted drink-drivers have taken a short cut to getting their licences back by attending hard-hitting courses which hammer home the anguish of accident victims.

The offenders undergo a programme which impresses the simple but crushing message that they increase the risk of death or injury to themselves and others every time they start up a car after a drink.

Participants might have to watch harrowing videos made by the families of people killed by drink-drivers, which are meant to shock and shame. They may be made to feel the agony of a bereaved parent by playing the role of one whose child has been killed by a drink-driver. Health education workers describe in

graphic detail the debilitating effects of long-term alcohol abuse. Policemen and lawyers also give talks.

Offenders must demonstrate they are intent on mending their ways by attending every session. If they do not, they risk being failed and their enrolment money wasted.

The reward for enduring these government-approved schemes is a cut of up to 25 per cent in the period of disqualification and a discount of up to 40 per cent on the heavy insurance bills they face when they get back behind the wheel.

The courses are the latest Department of Transport weapon against drink-driving, which is still responsible for more than 500 road deaths a year, about one in seven of all road fatalities.

This week Steven Norris,

the road safety minister, declared the courses, launched in 1993 but still run on an experimental basis, a success. By the end of the decade, they are likely to be available throughout the country. They may be made compulsory for persistent offenders.

For the past two years, 21 magistrates' courts in England and Wales and two sheriff courts in Scotland have had the legal power to offer offenders the option of attending the courses at 19 approved centres. More than 180 courses have been run.

By the end of December, 11,725 drink-drivers had been convicted in participating courts: since the start of the experiment. Of those, 4,206 (36 per cent) were offered the opportunity to attend a course and 1,254 (11 per cent) took up the offer.

The courses are typically attended by 15 to 20 offenders, the overwhelming majority of whom are men. They usually last for 20 to 30 hours, spread over five or six sessions, and cost between £50 and £200, which offenders must pay out of their own pockets.

According to government figures released last week, the courses are having a dramatic effect on the attitudes of those who attend. At the start, most showed an alarming level of ignorance about the physical and mental effects of drinking and the legal limit for drivers (80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood).

Only 32 per cent scored above 70 per cent in alcohol knowledge tests. Multiple-choice questions included: "How much beer drunk in two hours would put an average man at the legal limit?" Possible answers range from one and a half pints — the correct answer — to five pints, way over the limit.

By the end of the courses, a sufficient level of knowledge was achieved by 86 per cent of participants. About four in ten said they intended to cut their intake of alcohol.

Commenting on the figures, Mr Norris said: "Rehabilitation courses offer a real opportunity to change an offender's attitude before he or she drives again. These findings show the experimental scheme is succeeding in this."

By the end of each course, it is hoped those taking part will never feel tempted to drink and drive again. No research has yet been carried out into reconviction rates, as most of the courses have been running for only a year. However,

PENALTIES AROUND THE WORLD

- **United States:** legal limits range from 80 to 100 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood. Typical disqualification for first offender is six months. Many states require offenders to attend rehabilitation courses, which could reduce disqualification by up to three quarters or permit driving to work and church only.
- **France:** 70mg. spot fines up to £350. Disqualification for three months to life and up to two years' jail.
- **Germany:** 80mg. more than 110mg is punishable by fine of one to two months' wages for first offence with at least six months' disqualification. Maximum one year jail. Rehabilitation course can reduce disqualification.
- **Austria:** 80mg. Maximum police fine £3,000 or court fine up to £100,000. Six months' disqualification for a first offence. Rehabilitation courses available.
- **Ireland:** 70mg. maximum fine of IRL1,000 and mandatory driving ban of 12 months. Maximum six months' jail.
- **Sweden:** 20mg. maximum fine 120 days' wages. Twelve-month disqualification for levels up to 150mg, three years for more than 150mg. Maximum prison sentence two months, longer when there are casualties.

Continued on page 2, col 5

Women start to cut up rough

Helen Mound
on a big rise in
female car crime

Something sinister is taking place on Britain's roads: women drivers, still regarded by insurance companies as lesser risks than men, are turning into law-breakers. The number jailed for motoring crimes has doubled in the past year.

Official figures show a striking increase in female motoring offences. Most alarming is the rise in the use of violence. Last year, a middle-aged Berkshire woman was bound over after tangle with another woman driver. A girl was fined for criminal damage when she used a wheelbrace to smash the lights on a male driver's BMW. And a teenager claimed she was attacked by an older female driver in a supermarket car park.

In each case, tempers flared for trivial reasons such as a squabble over a parking space or queue-jumping, resulting in "road rage".

The AA recently identified the phenomenon in a survey. Rayner Peet, of the AA, said: "Fifty-four per cent of female drivers admitted acts of aggression. When resorting to violence, though, most turned against their victim's vehicle. Only 1 per cent admitted to physical violence."

The number of women jailed for motoring-related crimes has doubled in the past year, according to a monthly prison service document. That would account for at least 100 of the 1,866 women currently in jail. Their offences include drink-driving, careless and dangerous driving, and driving while disqualified.

Overall, 123,425 motoring offences were committed by women in 1993, nearly a 10 per cent increase on 1991. However, 1,391,341 offences were recorded against men. Women account for almost half the number of motorists and more than half (51%) of all drivers under 35.

Sophie, a 26-year-old designer from Cambridge, admits to fits of violent aggression when upset by another driver: "I'm not afraid to speak my mind to a woman, but I'd never confront a male. I'd make sure I got even, though."

Writing expletives in lipstick on the other car's windscreen, letting tyres down and removing wipers are among her favourite tactics.

One example from the next generation of female drivers was revealed last month. A girl from Plymouth told police she led on a 25-mile, 100mph chase: "Not bad driving for a 13-year-old, was it?"

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Bad drivers are not all speed-crazed youths — there are plenty of dangerous old duffers imperilling our progress

Dr Brian diagnoses a non-runner for nitwits

Here is a salutary coincidence. About 15 minutes after I heard on the car radio that Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, was introducing a Pass Plus scheme to cut accidents among young drivers, a man aged about 60 who had been driving on the crown of the road in front of me suddenly decided to turn, not right, but left. No signal, no nothing.

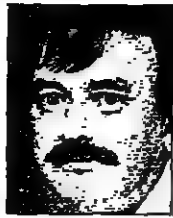
He just missed a cyclist riding along inside him, who nonetheless fell off his bicycle as the incompetent duffer sailed across his bows. That helps to explain why my welcome for Pass Plus is muted. It will have only a limited effect and tackles only one of the problems.

The reason why drivers under 21 are four times more likely to make an insurance claim than drivers aged 40 is not that all, or even most, young drivers are mad.

The statistics are bolstered by a minority of young drivers who persistently have accidents. The chances of these nitwits forking out nearly £100 to get extra tuition (the scheme is voluntary) are slim going on non-existent.

This does not negate the case for trying to do something about them, but I believe we should also be doing something about the people who read this column. Heck, no, I don't mean that. I mean people of the same age as the ones who read this

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

column, but who do not read it because they are not as bright as the ones who do. There, that's better.

The trouble with middle-aged and elderly drivers is that, however inadequate the test they took, they have forgotten most of the things they learned in order to pass it. They — we — don't signal properly, don't drive at a safe distance, and so on.

So, stressing that I do not have shares in a driving school, there ought to be an incentive scheme whereby people who signed up every ten years for one of the two-hour refresher courses that the bigger schools provide would have their insurance premiums, the same incentive that Dr Mawhinney has arranged for young drivers.

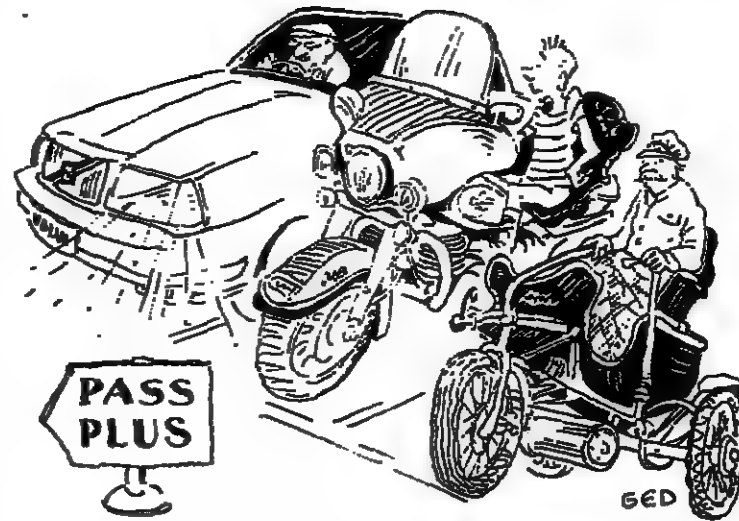
I think the take-up would be much higher in the older age group, because whereas cars and their related costs are about the only big item in a young person's budget, mortgaged, middle-aged parents are more alert to saving money.

During the nationwide firework celebrations that launched this column three weeks ago I mentioned my antipathy to Volvo drivers and offered a bottle of champagne for the best defence of them and another for the best attack on them.

The scale of your response has proved that everyone has a view where Volvos are concerned but you have also forced me to rethink my bias because Volvo drivers have something that makes all their sins forgivable: a terrific sense of humour.

One bottle of bubbly must go to Deborah Bragg, of Langley Marsh, Norwich, who says: "Of course we sit in the middle of the road (jumbo jets always taxi down the centre of the taxiway) and what on earth is the point of signalling at junctions when you haven't actually made up your mind where you want to go?"

Deborah says the invincibility of Volvos is proved by a recent head-on in which "my armour-plating was merely scratched whereas the make of my opponent was unrecognisable, even as I generously towed him



home". Do we believe a word of this? I make no comment.

The rest of the bubbly goes to Philip Kendrick of Eastham, Wirral, on Merseyside, who used to be Pc Philip Kendrick until he encountered a Volvo. It was piloted by "a seemingly model Volvo driver in cloth cap, grey anorak and patented myopia" who "turned across my path, swiping me off my police motorcycle at 40 miles per hour."

Philip then had to hobble after the driver, who had stopped to collect his wife, and was oblivious to the fact that he had been in an accident.

"This single act of motor vandalism brought my police career to an end after only six years" Philip writes. I have invented a third prize, the Volvo humour award, and will be sending the company's latest car catalogue (if I can lift it) to B.R.J. Simpson of Gosport, Hants. Mr Simpson was so shocked by my item that "I nearly dropped my sandwich on the steering wheel." He explains the little-known fact that the permanently lit side lights on Volvos are so that "the hot polo have time to step back and admire the car." Oh I see. Thanks to all who wrote.

'Jolly bad luck - that's £550'

John Wellman
on how it took
ten hours of
labour to replace
a part supposed
never to fail

The words of the service manager as my garage did not sound doom-laden when he pronounced: "It's the heating matrix, sir." What I did not realise was that the glittering finger of fate had paused above me; but instead of a winner, it had picked a victim in the "lousy design" lottery.

The heating matrix is not much to look at. An oblong metal construction 12in by 6in by 2in, and shaped like a small radiator, it provides warm air to heat the car. They are supposed never to go wrong, so manufacturers smuggle them deep in the car where they can remain unmolested until the vehicle is scrapped. If they do fail, trouble and cost follow.

My venerable Renault 25 TX, with nearly 75,000 on the clock, had been almost completely trouble-free during its life. Comfortable and reliable, the alarm bells rang only mildly when the heater stopped working and the temperature gauge refused to move, but then after 10 minutes driving sprang straight into the red. Leaking hoses in the cooling system, I thought.

The technician at my Renault garage sounded mournfully like a doctor diagnosing a long, painful and exotic illness. "About the worst thing that could have gone wrong, most unusual. Jolly bad luck."

The price of the heating matrix itself was £57.50. The total cost of the transplant, however, was £555.39, including value-added tax. This is because it took 10.5 hours



Loser in the design lottery: the author in a Renault 25. His own was remarkably trouble-free until a minor fault required a major operation

work to get the old one out and put the new one in.

Instead of simply opening the bonnet, unscrewing the thing and bolting another one in its place, the mechanics had to dismantle virtually the whole dashboard, remove most of its innards and, key-hole-surgery-style, negotiate the matrix out through the glove compartment. The work took a couple of days and the garage loaned me a car while the major surgery progressed.

The final bill also included coolant, a new clip for something or other and £2.38 for a bulb in a clock which had gone but had previously not been worth removing the dashboard for.

What I had not realised is that the heating matrix ranks alongside the sunroof and the dashboard itself as one of the most difficult parts of a car to replace.

Renault's head office in Britain confirmed that 10.5 hours

was the correct amount of labour time needed to replace the matrix on my model. However, he pointed out that on Renault's latest model, the Laguna, the same part could be whipped out and replaced in 1.5 hours. It is now accessible through the engine rather than the glove compartment.

What does the motor industry say about all this? John Singer, technical director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, noted:

"Normally, the bits you need to get at on a regular basis are easy to get to but there is always going to be the odd one which is difficult."

Roy Staunton, head of technical advice for the AA, said: "Very rarely do you have a problem with the heater matrix. They normally last the lifetime of the car. I know Renault had a few problems on the 25 with them. Yes, they are a devil of a job to get to."

Renault said: "There have

been isolated cases [of faults in the heating matrix] before but it is not an endemic problem."

Should anybody in the same boat have any thoughts of carrying out the work themselves, a final warning from Mr Staunton. "With its engine management systems, onboard computers and catalytic converters, the modern car is beyond the scope of most DIY mechanics."

Additional research by Robin Barnwell

Rover revs up assault on fleet market

PLANS to increase dramatically the number of cars Rover sells to business drivers have prompted a speed-up in the launch of the company's next generation models (Maurice Glover writes).

Pressure to boost sales to the fleet market by up to 50 per cent has brought forward the launch campaign for the new 400 range by a month. That means details of the most significant Rover volume car to be pitched against Ford and Vauxhall will now be available at the end of next month — just after the Honda Civic, jointly developed with the 400 and another contender in the burgeoning fleet market, reaches the showrooms.

Over the past five months, buyers for the country's biggest fleets have seen and driven some of the cars Rover hopes will account for 120,000 medium-class sales next year. Their "positive" response is said to have guaranteed future fleet sales.

"We're sticking to our on-sale date of May 16, but our orders are to start telling the



Coming soon: the Honda Civic 1.5i is another contender for company sales

public that the Mondeo or Cavalier no longer have to be regarded as the natural company car choices," said a spokesman. "Rover is now producing an alternative which is equally competitive but also offers prestige."

Developed on a platform shared with the Civic, the 400 is almost identical in size to the market-leading Ford Mondeo. Initially, the £11,000 to £18,000 range will be offered in five-door form, with

the new 1.4 and 1.6-litre K-series engines. Two-litre petrol and diesel engines will be available in autumn, and there will be four-door saloons next February.

HAVING a competitor in the medium sector will allow Rover to mount a second push for company sales when it reveals new three- and five-door 200 models at the London Motor Show in October. Designed to compete more effectively with the Escort and Astra, these will share power units with the 400.

Honda is also taking an aggressive marketing stance with its new Civic five-door. Despite having twin airbags, high-level specification and a two-year warranty, the lead-in 1.4i model's price of £11,495 undercuts the Escort LX by £245. The 1.5i, which claims diesel economy with a petrol engine, is £640 less than the Escort TDLX at £11,795.

BACK FROM THE BAN

Continued from page 1 course organisers say that if good intentions are converted into changes in behaviour, the number of drink-drivers on Britain's roads should soon start to fall.

Trevor Groom, director of the Bromley Alcohol Advisory Service, one of the 19 approved course organisers, says those attending are often relieved to meet people in the same predicament. "There is a therapeutic and self-help component as people get to know each other. There is a feel-good factor."

Once successfully completed, the courses bring more tangible benefits. In the case of a three-year disqualification, completion could bring a driver back on the roads nine months earlier than otherwise — a huge gain for somebody dependent on driving to make their living. Several insurers also offer discounts for people who complete the courses. Typically, motorists with drink-driving convictions can expect to see their premiums

rise by about 50 per cent after disqualification.

However, according to John Brockman, of brokers W.A. Ringrose in Barkingside, Essex, at least one company, Gan Insurance Group, and one Lloyd's syndicate will quote significant reductions for drivers who can prove they have successfully completed a rehabilitation course. Another insurer, Insurance GB, has said it will look favourably on successful course participants.

In some cases, the savings could be as much as 40 per cent. For example, a 33-year-old man living in Essex, driving a 1993 Ford Escort 1400 and with a maximum no-claims record, would save up to £157 on fully comprehensive cover.

A 43-year-old man living in Newcastle upon Tyne, without any no-claims bonus and driving a 1990 1342cc Rover 213, would benefit from a £197 discount for fully comprehensive cover. A 27-year-old Portsmouth man with two years no-claims bonus driving a Vauxhall Cavalier SRi 1800, and seeking third party, fire and theft cover, could save up to £76.

THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON

A406 North Circular Rd, Upper Edmonton: road width reduced on the Lea Valley Viaduct.

A219 Putney Bridge: reduced to one lane each way for repairs.

A214 Trinity Rd, Wandsworth: temporary lights at junction with Burnwood Lane cause regular delays, especially northbound.

A218 Twickenham Bridge, near Richmond: down to one lane each way for reconstruction work.

A110 Windmill Hill, Enfield: roadworks at junction with Church St — down to one lane westbound.

A501 Kings Cross one-way system: major work from Monday. First stage will be overnight with lane closures. Then 24-hour restrictions — long delays expected.

A1 East Finchley: major repairs in two locations — lane restrictions on Fallowfield Way and Lyttelton Rd — cause regular delays.

A3 Kingston Bypass: southbound down to one lane between Shearwater Corner and New Malden exit slip. From 9pm Friday until February 27. Severe delays anticipated.

● SOUTH EAST

M25 Surrey J7-8: contraflow causes regular delays and affects traffic in both directions.

A3 Guildford: contraflow between Abbotswood and Cathedral interchange — expect delays especially near A322 Dennis slip road.

A329 Basingstoke, Basingstoke: roadworks at M40 roundabout (junction with the A322/A3085/53022) until June.

A27 Chichester Bypass, Sussex: contraflow between Westhampnett and Whyke roundabouts until May.

A3020 Cowes: temporary lights on Newport Rd at junction with Three Gables Rd for roundabout construction until end of February.

A303 Hampshire: closed construction between Bullington and Andover from 8pm to 6am for bridge repairs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Also closed 11pm to 6am on Friday.

● SOUTH WEST

M4 Avon J20-21: major roadworks affecting both carriageways.

M32 Avon J1-2: lane restrictions both ways for bridge work — peak time delays.

M5 Gloucestershire J11-12: contraflow in place until September.

M5 Devon near J27 (Tiverton): contraflow and northbound entry slip road closed.

A419 Swindon: contraflow between Tumpike roundabout and A361 junction, with slip road onto B4141 Hyde Rd closed until end of March.

A3074 Cornwall: temporary lights between Stives and Carbis Bay. Stives-bound traffic should use the Coach Rd which is signposted at Lelant.

A3029 Bristol: Merchants Rd closed in Cumberland Basin System at Junction Lock Bridge causing knock-on delays on Anchor Rd and Cumberland Rd until March.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M6 West Midlands J4-6: major work with contraflow until March.

M5 West Midlands J3-4 (South-west of Birmingham): various lane closures for barrier and lighting work, with additional restrictions some times overnight.

● SCOTLAND

M80 Teayside J8-9: contraflow in operation for new bridge.

M6 Lomax J1 (Newbridge): various restrictions between J1 and Edinburgh City Bypass as motorway is under construction.

Edinburgh: with restrictions on High St between the North and South bridges until end of June.

A741 Renfrew Rd, Paisley: closed northbound for roadworks, contraflow southbound, delays expected peak-times.

● NORTHERN IRELAND

A6 Co Londonderry: lights on Glenshane Rd, Cashel for resurfacing.

A37 Limavady, Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Broad Rd for resurfacing until April.

A500 Stoke-on-Trent: closed over weekend between Hartford and City Rd interchange from 7pm today to 6am Monday. Diversions.

A1M near Blyth, Notts: new contraflow between Harworth and A614 until March.

A59 north of Derby: major work starting on Little Easton Bypass with lane restrictions and contraflow.

A52 Nottingham Ring Rd: major roadworks between Dunkirk and Nottingham Knight until April.

A45 Stonebridge, West Midlands: flyover construction at A452 junction and widening between M42 J6 and Stonebridge Island — (40mph limit and lane closures).

● WALES

M6 Cheshire J20-21A: roadworks continue near Thelwell Viaduct.

M62 West Yorkshire J25-26 (Brighouse/Chain Bar): lane closures with contraflow to follow.

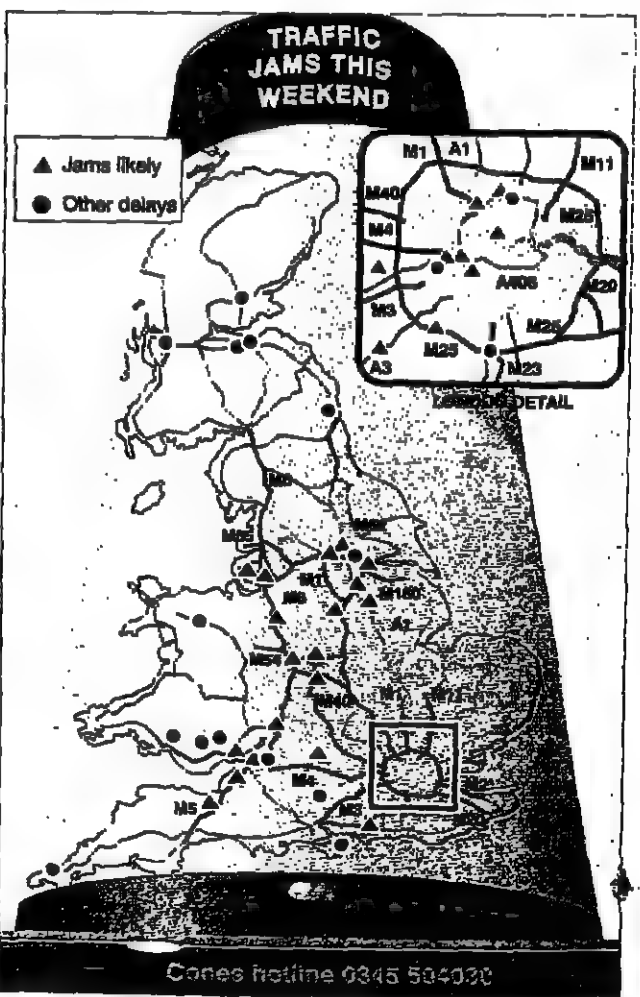
Westbound entry slip closed at J25. Work continues until March 24.

M18 South Yorkshire J3-4 (Doncaster Area): major reconstruction work with contraflow and lane closures expected soon until April.

M57 Merseyside J1 (Tarbock Island): roadworks and lane closures at roundabout junction with the M62, with additional restrictions at weekends until April.

M63 Lancashire J34-35 (Whitley Bridge/Langham): contraflow with two lanes each way and eastbound entry slip road at J34 closed.

A87 Leeds, West Yorkshire: various contraflow restrictions at Crossgate Point Bridge for improvements.



NEWS IN BRIEF

New MG unveiled

Only 120 dealers will sell the new MGF sports car which will be unveiled next month at the Geneva Motor Show. Rover is planning a separate network to stock the roadster as part of the move to achieve a new identity for the marque which has suffered from a chequered recent history. The MGF is the first all-new MG sports car since 1980 when the MGB was killed off.

Winning performance

The winner of our trip to the International Performance Car Show this weekend at Olympia, London, was Christopher Drew from Purley, Surrey. He wins a night at the Radisson Vanderbilt Hotel in Kensington, a copy of the video, Porsche — the Racing Legend, worth £19.99, and the 1995 Mini A-Z Great Britain Road Atlas. Ten runners-up also win two tickets to the show as well as the video and atlas. Tickets for the show, which features a range of fast cars, cost £7.50, or £3.50 for under-15s. Full details of the show's opening times are available on 081-744 1585.

Electric cars on grid

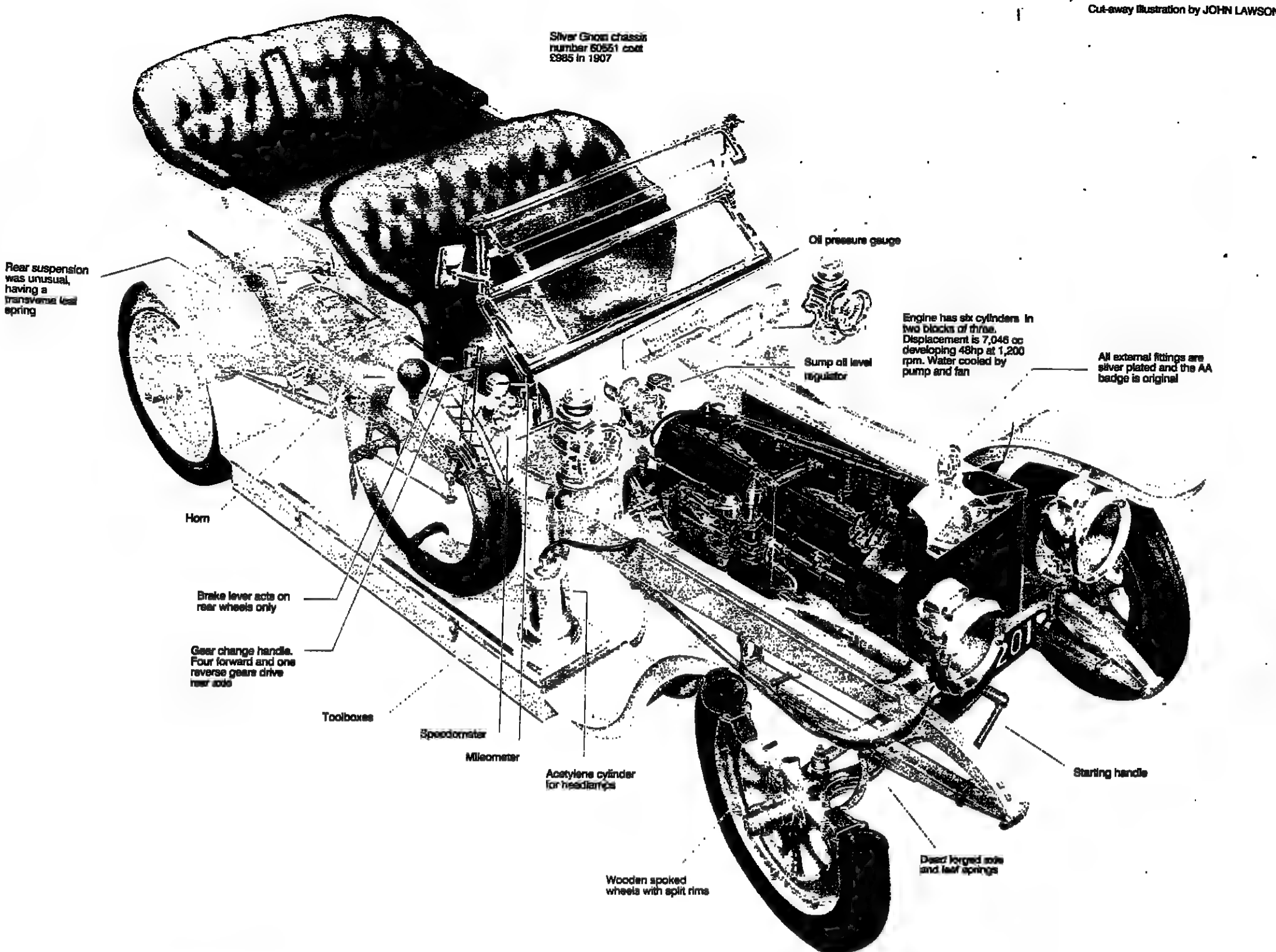
The first motor race for electric cars is on August 28 at Mallory Park in Leicestershire and will be the first round of an international series in the Electric-Solar World Cup. The battery-powered cars should be capable of 140mph with some cars developing 400 brake horse power.

Mikkola heads rally

Organisers are confident that the London to Mexico rally will go ahead even though there is trouble en route. Competitors from 22 nations are due to set out on April 22 but the route takes them through Peru and Ecuador, two nations currently engaged in border skirmishes. The entrants are headed by Hannu Mikkola, one of the world's top rally drivers.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu hails the 1907 Silver Ghost in his series on 12 great British cars

The silent star with a silver lining



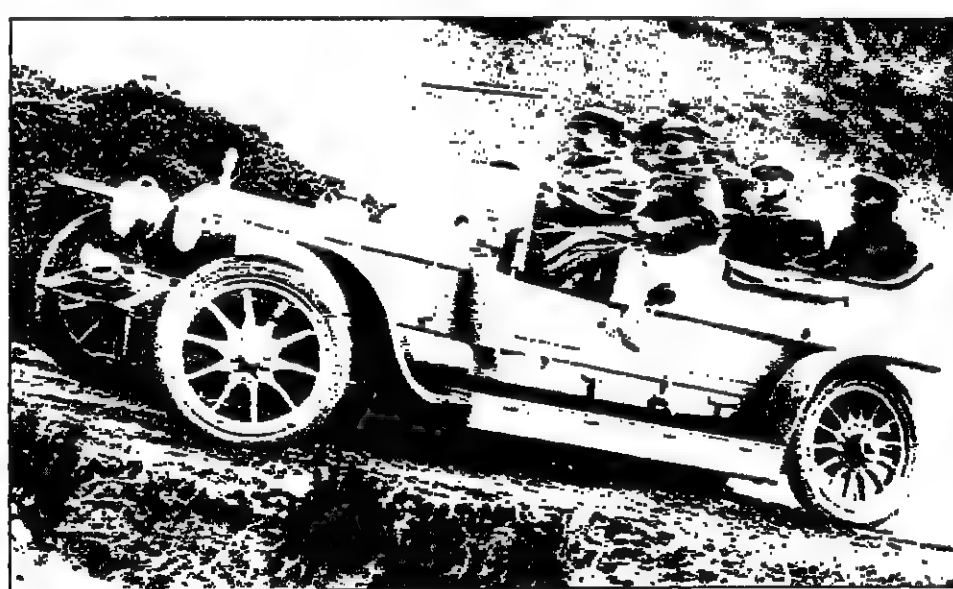
Cut-away illustration by JOHN LAWSON

In the spring of 1904, the Honourable Charles Stewart Rolls was a successful car salesman forced to sell foreign cars because there was no British-made car of sufficient quality for his aristocratic customers.

Unhappy with this, he confided to Henry Edmunds — a pioneer of electric lighting and telephony and friend of Thomas Edison — that he wanted to be connected with a car which would make Rolls a household name. Edmunds said he knew of a small car just built in Manchester by a manufacturer of electric cranes, Frederick Henry Royce. If Rolls could visit Manchester, he might find just what he wanted.

The two men met eventually over lunch at the Midland Hotel on May 4, 1904, with Edmunds as host; in the afternoon Rolls tried the Royce car and returned to London convinced that he had found his quality British car. His partner, Claude Johnson, agreed and the way was open for the creation of the most famous association in motoring history.

The original Royce car had only two cylinders and although wondrously smooth, it did not suit his ambitions for a top quality car. Fortunately, Royce had told Rolls that he hoped to make cars with four and even six cylinders. Actual-



Charles Rolls is the front-seat passenger as the Silver Ghost undergoes trials in 1907

ly, the first six-cylinder did not appear until 1905 with the 30hp model. The engine was really no more than three blocks of the two-cylinder engine and suffered, like all sixes of the day, from crankshaft vibration. Royce realised a complete redesign was needed. He created a new engine, larger than the six-litre 30hp at 7036cc and with cylinders conceived as a brace of triplets rather than a trio of twins. Known as the 40/50, it was shown to the public at

London's Olympia Motor Show in November, 1906. Claude Johnson did not believe in releasing an untested car on the market and, for the first half of 1907, prototypes of the 40/50 were tested up and down the country. The 12th chassis numbered 60 551 was fitted with a silver-plated touring body, with silver-plated fittings. Cars often had individual names and this one was called the Silver Ghost because of its uncanny silence, with a plaque to that effect on

the dashboard. It was not until several years later that the name came to be applied to all 40/50s.

Among the trials to which the Silver Ghost was subjected were a drive from Bexhill to Glasgow (about 470 miles) using the two upper gears only, and continuous driving between Glasgow and London until 15,000 miles had been covered. When the car was dismantled after this trial, the cost in materials to bring it back to mint condition was £2

2s 7d. The Autocar tested the Silver Ghost in April 1907 and was impressed: "There is no realisation of driving propulsion; the feeling as the passenger sits either at the front or back is one of being wafted through the landscape."

The Silver Ghost was sold to a private owner in 1908 and returned to the factory in 1948. It still appears regularly on the company's behalf in rallies and shows, and is arguably the most valuable Edwardian car in existence.

The first 40/50s went on sale in September 1907 and demand was high. Even before it went into production, a search for a new factory was underway, because the Manchester premises were too cramped. A site at Derby was chosen. My father, who had already purchased his first Rolls-Royce, opened the factory in July 1908. The smaller Rolls-Royces were dropped and the Silver Ghost became the only model. Production averaged seven chassis per week (350 per annum), rising to 600 per annum by 1913.

Rolls-Royce never had a body department and all coachwork was by specialists, of which Barker and Hooper were the best known. Depending on chassis length and coachwork, the Silver Ghost was a car of contrasting character. Many were heavy limousines or landaulets, for the "maharajah" or the duchess" trade as Henry Royce called them, but there were also sprint models such as the London-Edinburgh and Alpine Eagle. The latter was originally a team car for the 1913 Austrian Alpine Trial. In the previous year's event, James Radley, a friend of Rolls, had failed to re-start on a 14-degree hill on the Katchberg Pass, forcing the passengers to get out. This lost Radley so many points that he had to retire. Great was the chagrin at Derby, and the cars were redesigned for 1913 with a four-speed gearbox and larger radiator. They dominated the 1913 event, taking six awards. The four-speed gearbox was standardised on all Ghosts as a result, and replicas of the team cars were sold under the name Continental or Alpine Eagle.

From 1911 most cars were fitted with the mascot known variously as the Flying Lady,

Silver Lady or more correctly, Spirit of Ecstasy. It was designed by the sculptor Charles Sykes and the model is generally acknowledged to have been my father's personal assistant Eleanor Thornton.

During the First World War the Silver Ghost was widely used by the armed forces in three main roles: as a staff car, as a supply vehicle with light truck body, and as an armoured car. Lawrence of Arabia valued them highly. "A Rolls in the desert was above rubies," he wrote.

After the war, Rolls-Royce was slow to change and the only concession to post-war motoring was that electric lighting and starting which had been extras in 1914 were now standardised and in 1924 Rolls-Royce at long last fitted four-wheel brakes — one of the last manufacturers of luxury

cars to do so. The Silver Ghost was dropped in May 1925. A total of 6,173 Ghost chassis were made and approximately 1,000 remain.

Of the two Silver Ghosts in the National Motor Museum I cannot make up my mind which is my favourite: the 1909 Tourer or the 1913 Alpine Eagle. The older one I bought as a breakdown truck and its early years were spent in Perth ending up as a hearse. It was splendidly restored in the 1960s with a Roi-des-Belges body and I have toured with it all over Europe.

The Alpine is my favourite, the perfect car for a rally. I remember the joy of crossing the endless Nullarbor Plain in Southern Australia, cruising steadily at 55mph, when I drove with Prince Michael of Kent from Perth to Canberra in the 1988 Bicentennial Rally.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Toyota in search of British revival

Toyota is to replace every current model in its range over the next two years to revive its fortunes in Britain.

That means a dozen new cars on the UK market while the Japanese company's factory at Burnaston, Derbyshire, will consolidate its position as the nation's fourth biggest car exporter after Nissan, Rover and Vauxhall.

Runaway winner

Citroens have captured leading places in the check on running costs organised by Fleet Management magazine. It shows that the AX, ZX and Xantia diesels are among class leaders for economy for business users over 60,000 miles, the Citroen ZX Reflex 1.9D costing 21.6p a mile.

Proton push

New Proton cars get improved warranty featuring three year/60,000 mile overall cover, six years or 60,000 miles for the power train, six years unlimited mileage on bodywork, three years and unlimited for paintwork plus three years membership of the RAC. The sales push for February and March includes two years free servicing.

Premiums fall

Premiums on touring caravans are falling by 13 per cent from Goldcare Insurance in Aldershot, Hampshire. The company stipulates every caravan is welded clamped if not attended, leading to reduced theft claims. Goldcare is on 0252-22596.

Fiat price rise

Fiat has raised prices by an average 2.5 per cent but says buyers get extra features as a bonus. Security window etching is introduced on several models while the Punto also gets an immobiliser and driver's side airbag.

New Nissan

Nissan is raising the stakes for sales of small cars with a new model, the Micra Mauritian, on sale from £89 a month on its low cost finance scheme. The British-made 1.0-litre car comes at a base price of £7,495 but offers 47 miles to the gallon economy.

Back to basics

Lower specification Shoguns are on offer from Mitsubishi. The company has traditionally concentrated on high-spec 4x4s to compete with Land Rover but is now bringing in more basic GLX turbo-diesels at between £18,599 and £23,089.

The right track

One of Britain's big fleet companies, NT Gallagher of Manchester, has ordered 150 TrakBak homing devices from Securicor. The devices send out signals so that they can be tracked by police if stolen.

Sporty show

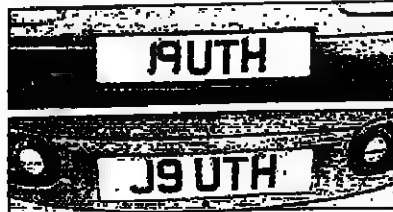
The Sports and Replica Car Show is on March 11 and 12 at Bingley Hall, Stafford.

Gambling with the numbers game

WHEN the horribly familiar sight of a motorcycle with flashing blue lights appeared in my rear-view mirror, I knew my number was up. This was the third time I had been stopped by police who wanted to know my number: the one at either end of the red Mazda MX5 I had bought a few months earlier and which I considered incomplete without a personalised plate (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Officer number three was not easily deterred. In vain did I produce the legal plates from the boot and argue, truthfully, that they were to be fitted that week at the 12,000 mile service. My crime was that the police couldn't make out the numbers and characters. I admitted that the J and the 9 had been trimmed and elided in order to make the R of "Ruth", and hoped the ingenuity might count in my favour. It didn't.

He told me the police had instituted a new "incentive scheme" to encourage legal plates, by imposing spot fines.



Before, top, and after correction

Writing out a ticket, he said that if I failed to pay £20, a warrant would be issued for my arrest. The DVLA at Swansea would be informed and I would be compulsorily issued with a new, standard number plate if I failed to comply with the legal requirements set out in circular V796. "A number plate is not a fashion accessory," he said.

More than £150 million has been raised since the DVLA introduced its own telesales operation in 1993, with prices now starting at £345 for a personalised plate, with an extra £80 to

cover Department of Transport costs. The best plates can fetch £6,000.

Difficulties arise when people such as myself, unwilling to pay such sums, try to cheat on the cheaper versions available.

"People do space numbers and letters illegally, and there are various ways," says the DVLA. Circular V796, and all DVLA publicity material, makes it clear that it is an offence to alter, rearrange or misrepresent letters or numbers in order to form names or words. There are also precise guidelines for spacing letters and numbers.

The meticulous policing now in place can, to the offender, seem unnecessary and trivial. But the police can only be right to alert drivers to the nature of an offence, which, at worst, could jeopardise the process of justice if an untraceable car were to be involved in a serious accident. For Select, the DVLA telesales operation, call 081 201 6565.

THE TIMES

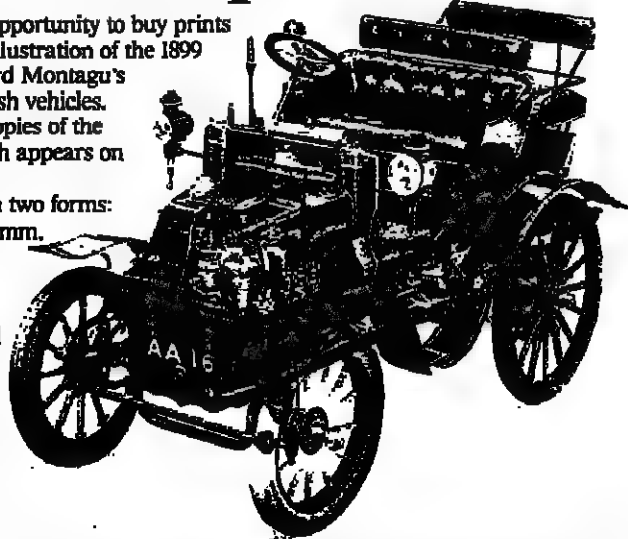
Historic cars print offer

Today we offer readers the opportunity to buy prints of John Lawson's cut-away illustration of the 1899 Daimler — the first car in Lord Montagu's series of 12 outstanding British vehicles.

Readers may also order copies of the Rolls-Royce illustration which appears on this page.

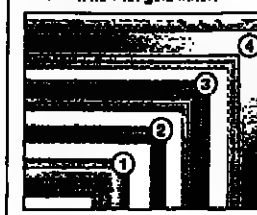
The prints are available in two forms:

- Unframed, 297mm by 420mm, on 130gm paper. Price £3.99 including VAT and carriage.
- A limited edition of 250 prints signed by Lawson and Lord Montagu, on 170gm paper, 297mm by 420mm plus a 6cm border and in a choice of four frames. Price £29.99 including VAT and carriage. For queries, phone 0843-602717.



CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING FRAMES

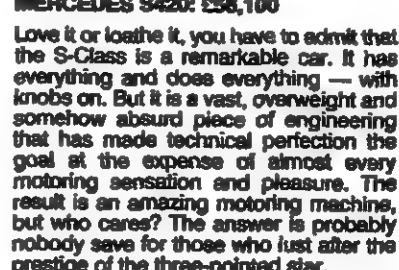
1. The ever-popular gift frame in a contemporary design.
2. The high-gloss black lacquer hockey.
3. Black lined wood with two gold lines.
4. An unusual contemporary dark wood frame with gold inlay.



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Signature _____ Expire _____				
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**Bright, light
but not
quite right**

does count. If you can afford it, you can flaunt it; and the Audi



IAN BOTT

RDS central computer receives the signal and passes an update signal to the relevant encoder

The Radio Kent DJ presses a button to signal the start of a travel flash

Police pass details of an M20 accident to Radio Kent for their travel news

1

2

3

4

5

The encoder at Wrotham receives the update and broadcasts it as a coded signal on existing radio stations

Wrotham

M20

Radio Kent

A car radio detects the signal and automatically returns to the Radio Kent traffic flash giving the driver advance warning of the accident and the chance to change his route

10 miles

see also in graphic

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Blast from the past hits comeback trail



Tyrrell in search of the winning formula

Bill Frost sees the gods of Formula One smile again on a team in search of success

When not behind the wheel, Ukyo Katayama appears to be the mildest of men — a doting father of two who claims to enjoy nothing more than hunting down bargains at Surrey car boot sales and the odd round of golf. However, out on the circuit he becomes a ruthless warrior who neither gives nor expects any quarter from his rivals.

Katayama, star performer with the Tyrrell team, freely admits that he has sold his eternal soul to Formula One. "I am in love with speed and have been ever since I was 16 — it gets into your blood and beats in your heart," he says.

Sitting cross-legged on a workbench, the 31-year-old Japanese driver beams with pleasure as the mechanics signal that the car is ready for him. "Driving for Tyrrell is my job and my life. Sure, I have lost 10 friends in the sport during as many years, but death is a risk you have to face," Katayama says.

With a roar his car disappears up the pit lane to the circuit beyond. The mechanics, who, extraordinarily, never appear begrimed by their work, nod approvingly as he takes the first bend at speed. "Ukyo's good, bloody good indeed," says one. "I reckon we are back to the glory days," he adds as the car flashes past the pits at about 156mph.

As even the most casual observer must be aware, Formula One's cruel and prodigious god makes and breaks teams and drivers on a whim. So it was that Tyrrell, once among the best and brightest in the sport, slowly slid from prominence to near obscurity.

However, that same god can occasionally show mercy. He is once again smiling on Tyrrell and, 12 years after their last significant Grand Prix victory, the Surrey-based team is preparing for the forthcoming season with a new sense of purpose and determination.

There is a new car, a new Yamaha three-litre engine, a new chassis and new suspension which the men who know about these matters describe as "revolutionary". It will be unveiled officially on Monday. As importantly perhaps, the sponsors whose largesse the teams rely upon are showing a great deal of interest in Tyrrell once again.

At tests in Jerez last month they came, nodded approvingly and prepared to dig deep into their wallets. They watched as the mechanics worked tirelessly and the drivers waited patiently.

The team's routine during the tests in southern Spain would shatter the health of all but the hardiest. Bleary-eyed, pale and hungry, they assemble before first light to begin their exhausting devotions.

The rules of this strict blue-overalled order demand that they sleep a few hours only each night, work an 18-hour day and genuflect constantly around the holy object they guard with their lives.

The uninitiated believe these men are part of a glamorous world where the good times roll: champagne and starlets at every pit stop. However, don't be fooled — Formula One is not about that at all.

Katayama neither smokes nor drinks and is fast asleep many hours before the first nightclub is open. "Alcohol does not agree with me. One glass of whisky and I sing loudly for a few minutes and then go into a deep sleep," he says.

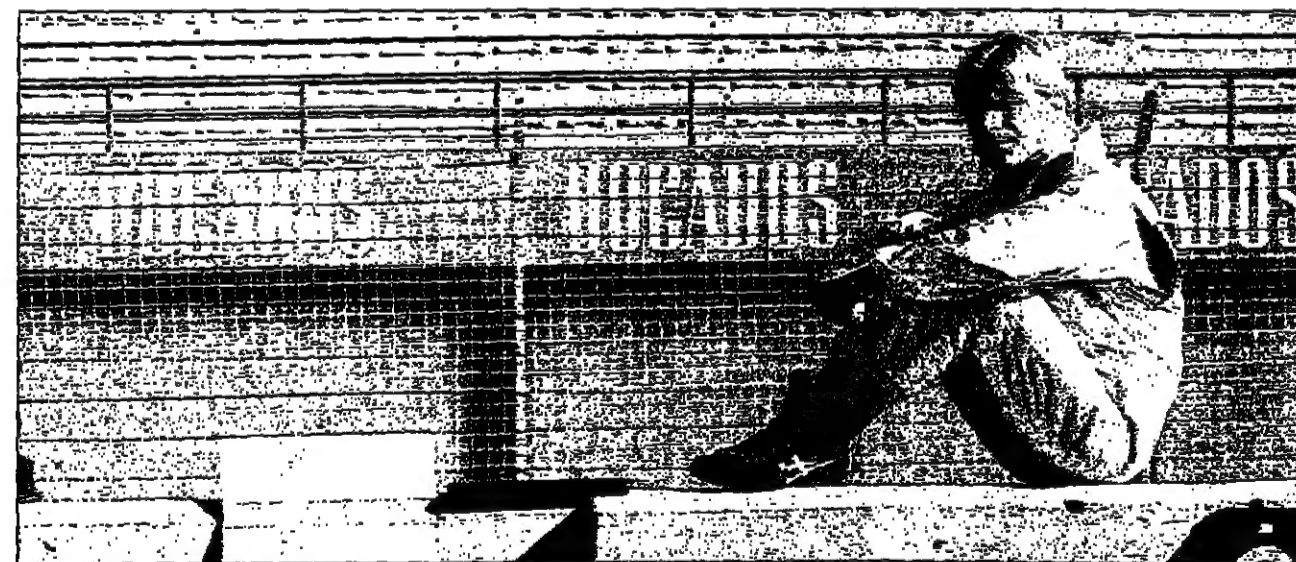
Keen to display his skill, Katayama invites us to join him on a few laps of the Jerez circuit in a modest Renault family saloon. Within seconds the car is squealing around



Images of Tyrrell: top, snapshots from exhausting, 18-hour days in Jerez which shattered the health of all but the hardiest, and above, Ukyo Katayama, who freely admits "I am in love with speed"



Toughs of the track: the Tyrrell team is hoping that Katayama, left, and his fellow driver, Mika Salo, right, will bring out the best from each other during the coming season in Formula One



tight bends on two wheels.

"Not enough power," he shouts above the scream of the engine and the whimpering of his passengers. "Try to imagine we are cornering at more than twice this speed," he adds as the Renault's brakes begin to smoke and the car hurtles into another evil curve.

Back in the pits two night-mare laps later, Katayama lowers himself into the cockpit of the snorting beast his mechanics have been working on since before first light. He waits for an hour while they tweak and caress the engine, apparently impervious to the blast of the exhaust.

Mike Gascoyne, Tyrrell's deputy technical director and a man with a reputation for demanding the best from driver and machine, allows himself just a hint of a smile once Katayama is back on the circuit. "His times are getting better and better," he confides after looking at a computer printout.

Gascoyne does not suffer fools gladly on the circuit, so technical questions are best left unasked by those who are unable to strip and re-assemble a Formula One engine in less than two hours. Like his fellow team members, he has given up normal conversation

for a language that baffles an outsider. Over a beer at the end of yet another long day, Gascoyne will loosen up slightly though. His eyes mist over when he speaks of the sport he loves.

"Sure, I am hooked — who wouldn't be? And no, I don't want to be behind the wheel myself. I just want to see one of Tyrrell's drivers winning this season, there is no feeling to compare with that," he says.

Several beers later, at a time when one might expect the conversation to have switched to more vulgar topics, the mechanics are still talking engines and prospects for the forthcoming season. "Yes, I suppose we are a bit like monks in blue overalls," one admits. "Once you're in Formula One there is no other subject for conversation," he adds.

Dawn the following day and the team is back at the circuit kneeling around the two cars to be tested. Abba are on the sound system competing unsuccessfully with engines which at only half throttle would waken the dead.

Steve Nielsen, assistant team manager, stands staring at the cars with an expression

which suggests he is about to have a religious experience. The 30-year-old former London policeman, has long since forgotten life on the beat.

"This is a vocation, almost everything else takes second place to the team," he says. "I

have missed celebrating seven of my eight wedding anniversaries, so as you can imagine, Formula One is not exactly my wife's favourite sport."

"I tried to convert her during a trip to the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal two

years ago. She came to the race but didn't enjoy it at all, I think she left before it was over," he adds, shaking his head in puzzlement.

At lunch Katayama looks worried. He picks at the food, even turning up his nose at the ripe Brie he normally enjoys so much.

The driver, who has been with Tyrrell since 1993, watches a young man in racing overalls who arrived at the circuit just a few hours earlier. Like gunfighters the pair size each other up while the mechanics wolf down enormous portions of chilli.

So, who is this stranger? "Mika Salo, he's a 27-year-old Finn, he's very hot and could well end up driving for us this coming season," confides a member of the team between mouthfuls.

Katayama's expression grows more preoccupied as the Finn's performance on the circuit later draws delighted grins from the men in the pits. Salo, a James Hunt look-alike, is modest about his performance. "It was the car, not really me at all," he says with a shy smile.

The arrival of the new driver reveals a gloomier side to Katayama's nature. That night he talks of mortality and

admits to anxiety on the grid. "Sometimes I get scared. I pray to God and cross myself as I wait for the start," he says, fingering a lucky charm on a chain around his neck.

He talks too of his life in the Home Counties during the months spent close to the Tyrrell factory in Ockham. "I love car boot sales, you can find such bargains. I play golf and watch my wife work in the garden — she has green fingers, is that what you say?"

Late the following morning beneath a blinding Spanish winter sun, Salo's times are better than ever. Then, over the headphones each team member wears, he is heard shouting: "It's on fire, it's on fire."

Rupert Manwaring, the team manager, frowns for a second. "Hit the extinguisher, just hit the extinguisher," he says over the intercom.

We dash across the circuit towards a plume of oily grey smoke to find Salo standing by his car. A pool of oil marks the spot where his engine blew up.

"I was taking the bend at about 150mph in fifth, then there was a problem," he says with a shrug. "No, of course I wasn't frightened, just an-

nnoyed that there will now be a two-hour delay before I can get a new engine in and return to the circuit."

Back at the field kitchen where the food is prepared, the chefs lower the heat under the dishes they had been preparing. "Replacing an engine will delay lunch until about 2pm," says Nick Haworth of MSL Location Services, the company that has fed Tyrrell for the past two seasons.

"They're not that fussy about their food really. But woe betide you if you give them something they don't like," said Haworth.

That night in the bar after Katayama and Salo have long since gone to bed, the mechanics discuss the relative merits of the two drivers and the team's prospects for the next season. They agree the pair are ideally matched to bring the best out in each other.

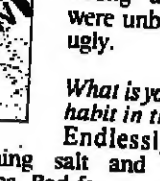
"We are the team that gave Jackie Stewart three world championships and started Jody Scheckter, and Jean Alesi. These two we have now will get us back where we belong — not top four, but almost certainly No 5," says one mechanic.

Photographs by Simon Walker

Testing times: Tyrrell's new car, new engine and new hope

By Mike 150

**1961 Morris
for sale —
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What is your worst habit in the car?
 Endlessly consuming salt and vinegar crisps. Bad for my waistline and the car is always littered with their debris.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?
 Sheer lack of awareness of the needs of other motorists. Drivers of all ages are guilty of it. I try not to be. So should you.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?
 Wouldn't you like to know!

If you were appointed as Secretary of State for Transport, what would you do?
 I can't think of one. I never get a chance to see the television. I'm too busy with

port, what is the first thing you would do?
 I would not be presumptuous to assume that I would ever become the Secretary of State. The one we have is doing a perfectly good job. But if I were to be promoted, I would make sure we explain to people more about why there are roadworks. When there are miles and miles of orange cones, but nothing seems to be happening, the Department must try to explain what is going on. I know it is frustrating to be held-up. We are trying to improve it. Which is why we have set up the cones helpline. Call it.

What is your favourite/most hated car advertisement?
 I don't think of one. I never get a chance to see the television. I'm too busy with

We all know that a car is more, much more, than just four wheels to go from A to B. Considerable attention has been paid to the car as status symbol, as opportunity for hanky-panky, and even as Freudian substitute for intimate acquaintance.

Yet no research has been done on the car as marriage.

A domestic dispute to settle? Corner him in the car and you're en route to a happy ending, says Celia Haddon

But he can't escape. He cannot do a bunk to the pub or disappear into the lavatory. He cannot even stop on his hard shoulder, since the police would never accept that it was a psychological emergency for him.

I have him, if not his attention, for the next 25 minutes until we have

enrichment unit, a kind of caring and sharing wagon. This is what I use it for.

All women know the awful moment when Something Will Have to Be Discussed. Men know it too. They can sense it coming and usually make evasive action; men loathe talking things out.

My husband uses jokes, sarcasm, he can make me laugh, I may forget to raise the subject. Other evasive tactics include bringing back the subject by talking about the awful people in mass media, or he will put in order to block a serious discussion, working it out, or slipping off on a business trip.

I have my rule about raising Things Which Must Be Said. Tricky subjects must not be mentioned if either of us is drunk, tired, genuinely worried, ill or distracted by other matters. That way lies

the all-out marital row. It is difficult to find a time when both partners are sober, unstressed, and not too knackered — except, that is, driving time. And every week we have three hours driving to and from our country cottage.

Ideally, I raise the subject as we pass the M25 junction and the M40 unfolds ahead. "Darling," I say, "there is something we have to talk about." This, as most wives know, can be anything from the fact he fails to put the milk back into the fridge to the general state of our marriage. I use my calm, caring voice, as advised by my therapist: the same calm, caring voice that seems to put him in a mood of excitable irritation and hatred.

He will then turn to the Oxford by-pass. It appears to work. He listens but sometimes I wonder if he hears. He often seems to spray water on the windshield, turn up the heater or demist the back window at these moments. Are these merely displacement activities showing his frustrated desire to escape, or is he meaning to tune me out with them?

Lately, I have had to modify the therapeutic discussion technique. At Citroen BX cruising at 70mph on the best place to discuss subjects likely to send one or both of us berserk. A single swerve of manic anger and we could both be squashed food for motorway magpies.

So for incendiary subjects I am considering moving the marital therapy space to the bath. My husband, in the bath, will turn the



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chauffeur-driven ministerial

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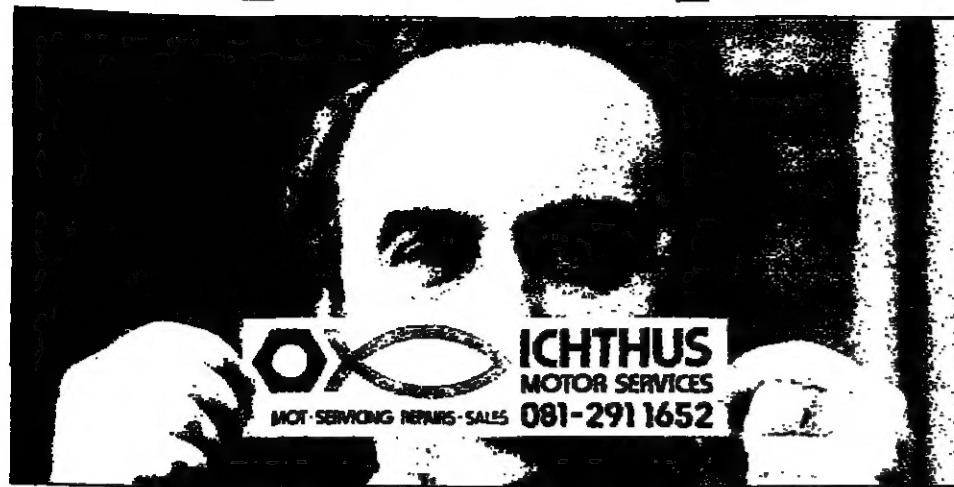
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[illegible]

Praise the Lord and pass the pliers



The notice on the office door reads "Be an Angel. Don't smoke". There are no pin-ups. Where am I, a garage or a monastery? A bit of both. It's a garage: a Christian garage.

Ichthus Motor Services is near Forest Hill, off London's South Circular. That's services as in vehicle, but in his private capacity proprietor Len Carne is also interested in the religious variety. In addition, he runs a charity which hires out cars cheaply to missionaries home on leave.

Here beginneth the interview with Len, a 45-year-old evangelical Christian with a doctorate in biochemistry. "I'm not saying for one moment that we're the only honest garage." But his last words to me are: "We haven't found anywhere in the world, let alone in the country, where they are doing this."

In between, he explains what "this" is and its genesis. His career began, he says, in a pathology lab, which led to a degree then a Ph D. Medical research seems a perfectly adequate way of doing God's work but Len's feelings were different: "I ended up doing some very academic research but I wanted contact with people. I was 30: I'd recently become a Christian, my contract was coming to an end and it was the right time to make a change."

It was in 1979 that he became a born-again garage mechanic. "I'd had my head under a bonnet since I was 10.

No pin-ups, no roll-ups — and no rip-offs.

Jonathan Sale visits a garage with a mission

From the age of 17, my friends and relations brought their cars to me to service. Why? First, I was cheaper; second, they could trust me. If I said, 'I've changed the brake-pads,' they knew I'd changed the brake-pads. I feel I'm doing what God wants."

The name he chose to trade under reflected his particular brand of Christianity. Ichthus, Greek for fish, has been a Christian symbol since the days of the early church. Today it is associated with evangelical Christianity: although he has no connection with the nearby Ichthus Christian Fellowship — apart from having some of its members as customers — they are both involved in announcing the Good News. Len, who attends a Baptist church, says: "There is a thread of people that truly love the Lord, throughout all the denominations."

On the phone to the uninitiated, it can be a chore to spell out the Ichthus bit of his company name but it provides an opportunity to explain the derivation and possibly spread the Word.

None of this seems to have hindered his business, even in the early days. "It was just me and a van," he recalls. "Then I got to know a retired chap who still did a bit of bodywork; he worked out of the back of a church." It was at least better than the back of a lorry, but they moved into the present premises three years later. His colleague has since retired for good but his daughter now works in the office. "There are about six of us now," says Len.

But are they Christians? "About half and half. And Les is on the fence." The staff are hired for their skill, not their hymn-singing; yet they say the place has a different atmosphere to any other garage in which they've worked. No saucy calendars, so often the hallmark of the motor trade; and there is also the charity side.

"This Christian chap, a customer, phoned up out of the blue and said, 'I feel I should give you this car.' I said, 'Fair enough,' and we had the idea of lending it to missionaries home on leave. We got given another and another. We've got 115 now."

"Some are just good for spares and others are quite a sacrifice; people are led by the Lord to give cars they could sell for thousands. One chap wanted to sell his car for £1. He was too embarrassed to tell his mates he'd given it away."

To look after this philanthropic fleet, Len set up Ichthus Motor Mission, a



God's handyman: Len Carne with company logo and a car sent for Christian healing

registered charity whose logo is a fish with a nut in its tail. It breaks even by charging 8p per mile, plus £40 per month. "A blessing," declares a motorised missionary from Mexico. Amen, say evangelists from Thailand, Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Do they have to be Baptists?

"No, anybody's missionaries — if they are of an evangelical bent. We haven't found ourselves refusing anybody."

Praise the Lord and pass the ignition key. The Bishop of Woolwich and his wife are among the garage's customers — but so are local Muslims.

"I am a Christian running a garage and seeking to do

God's work," says Len. Reluctantly, he accepts that the Christian tag can be a handicap: "Some people expect you will charge hardly anything and their car will never go wrong." Honestly, what do they want — miracles?

Ichthus Motor Services is at 41 Grove Close, London SE23 1AS (081-291 1652).

Black box may end crash rows

Kevin Eason on a high-tech part that can resolve insurance disputes

Millions of drivers will soon be monitored by aircraft-style black box recorders to tell insurers who was at fault in a crash.

The revolution in micro-electronics means cars can be fitted with computers which record every time the driver brakes, how quickly the car is being driven and whether it had to be stopped in an emergency.

Honda is already fitting its 1995 Civic models, made at Swindon, Wiltshire, with a small black box, pioneering the way for the rest of the industry.

The recorder is linked to the car's airbag system. After a crash, a microchip will have the sequence of events immediately before impact indelibly printed on it.

The information is not yet available to insurers but by examining the data, Honda's engineers say they can study the performance of the car in a crash and make improvements in the next generation of models.

The black boxes work exactly like those in aircraft, measuring speed and telemetry so that if the vehicle was making sharp movements, engineers could decide whether it was breaking speed limits or was out of control.

Although the biggest benefit could be in helping determine who was at fault in a crash, the box could also revolutionise Britain's huge fleet industry. Companies can for the first time measure accurately whether their drivers are wasting fuel and adding to maintenance costs by driving too quickly and recklessly.

Fleet Support Group (FSG), based in Chippenham, Wiltshire, claims its box could cut the running costs of a company car by as much as half, simply by identifying bad drivers.

Geoffrey Bray, FSG's direc-

tor, says the black box could be used to educate drivers, and make them safer. "This is not the use of Big Brother alongside the driver, but tests have clearly shown that improved driver care cuts maintenance, fuel and accident costs."

A BMW 316i test car over 60,000 miles or three years would have a projected average running cost of £2,096, or 3.5p a mile. A good driver would shave costs to £1,522 — but a bad one could run up a bill of £3,699, because his car would use more fuel, need more servicing and more vital parts, such as frequent brake replacement.

FSG says its system, which starts at £300, could record simple data such as acceleration, harsh braking, over-revving, speeding and cornering. Even the number of times the brake lights come on could be counted.

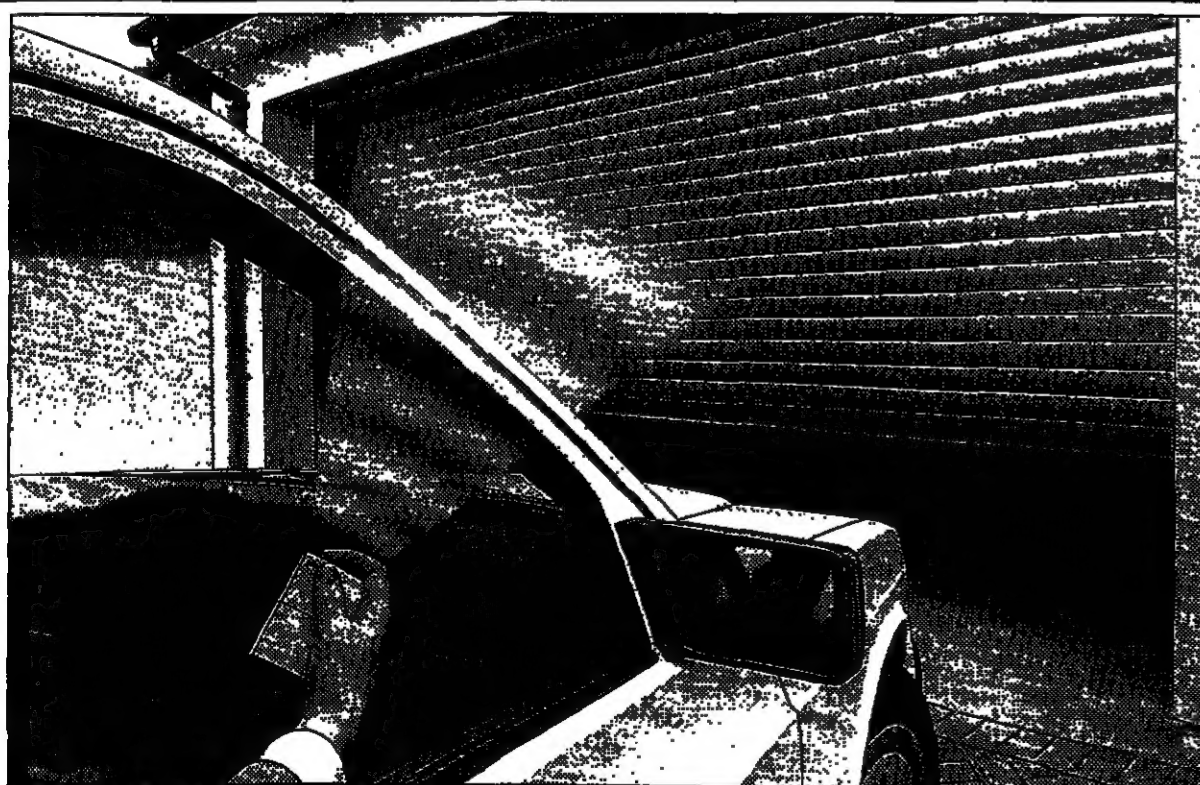
The information between the best and worst drivers could be compared and drawn into a league table, so that the costlier drivers were aware they were burning five-pound notes every time they slammed their foot down on the throttle or brake.

The Environmental Transport Association has launched a campaign to have the boxes fitted as standard to all cars as a way of modifying driver behaviour.

Andrew Davis, the association's director, said: "Most crashes are caused by driver error, and the technology now exists to stop people getting away with dangerous driving."

The ETA might not have long to wait. Following Honda are companies such as Toyota in Britain and General Motors, which owns Vauxhall and is already fitting black boxes to its Saturn small car range in the USA.

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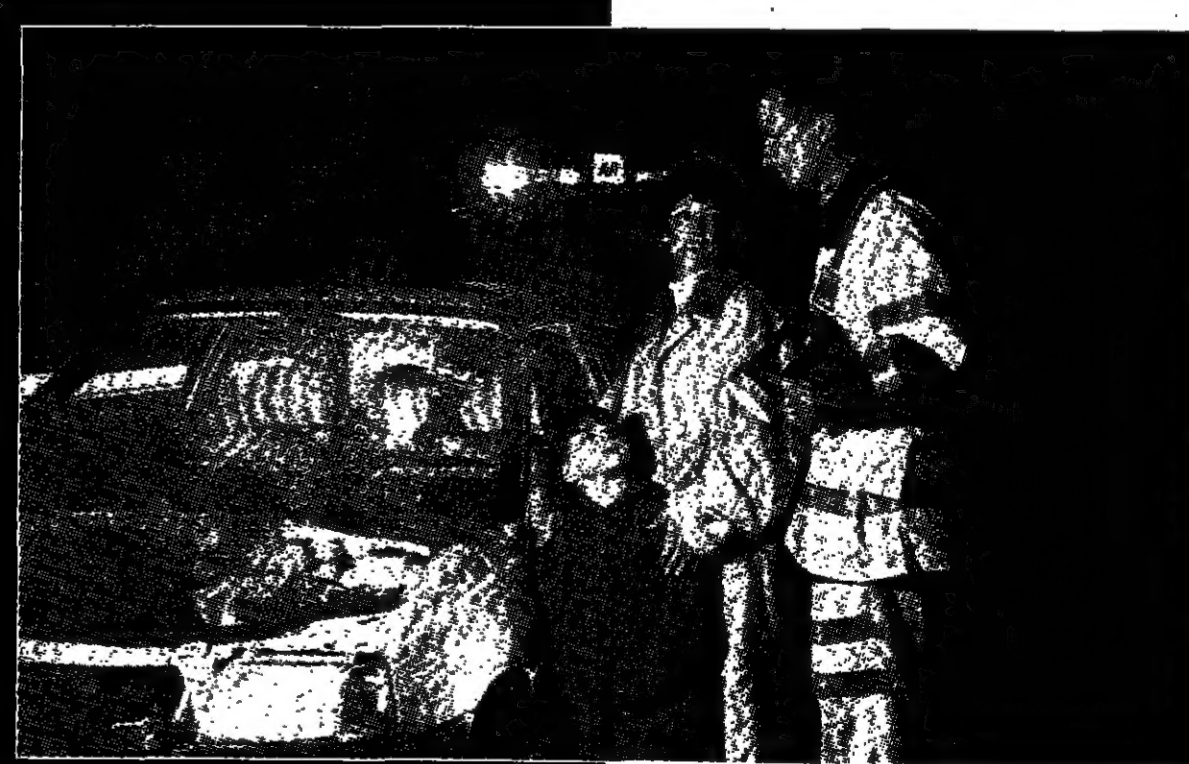
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